



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Parks Administration Building, 2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

AGENDA

- 1. *Call to Order / Moment of Silence***
- 2. *Pledge of Allegiance***
- 3. *Approval of the Minutes***
 - A. November 14, 2023 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-6/action item)
- 4. *Public Comment***
- 5. *Communications, Projects & Activities*** (attached, pp. 7-27/action item)
- 6. *Financial & Recreation Reports – November 2023***
 - A. Claims Report (attached, p. 28/action item)
 - B. Fund Balance Reports (attached, pp. 29-30/action item)
 - C. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 31-37/action item)
- 7. *Old Business***
 - A. Master Plan/Strategic Plan Presentation (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Other Old Business
- 8. *New Business***
 - A. MLM Natatorium – Construction Documents/Oversight (attached, pp. 38-39/action item)
 - B. NATAC Round 23 Priorities (attached, p. 40/action item)
 - C. ALPAC Round 23 Priorities (attached, p. 41 /action item)
 - D. B2B – DAA7 Construction Cost Sharing Agreement (attached, pp. 42-51/action item)
 - E. Adoption of 2024 Annual Calendar (attached, p. 52/action item)
 - F. Other New Business
- 9. *Commissioners / Directors Comments***
- 10. *Adjournment***

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: November 14, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main Street, Chelsea, MI 48118

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin, Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary, Robert Joerg, Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Evan Pratt, Yousef Rabhi, and Katie Scott

Members Absent: Brenda McKinney

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Brian Klender, Superintendent of Pierce Lake Golf Course; Dan Cooperrider, Park & Facility Supervisor; Peter Sanderson, Project Manager; David Ries, Project Manager; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; and Roy Townsend.

Others Present: Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Caroline Sanders, Board of Commissioners; Shery Siddall, Director of WCRC; Matt MacDonell, Managing Director of WCRC; Barb Fuller, WCRC Commissioner; Rodrick Green, WCRC Commissioner; Jeffrey Smrz, WCRC Commissioner

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Joint Session with the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC): Revenue Whitepaper Discussion

Mr. Dill, County Administrator, presented the County Revenue White Paper that was prepared for the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on October 18, 2023. He explained that the White Paper was not a proposal but meant to inform the BOC of potential options for mitigating revenue shortfalls. He explained that the Headlee Amendment has suppressed total taxing authority and resulted in reduced revenues for the County. The BOC has many unfunded priorities that could be addressed with extra revenue. Mr. Dill explained that one option is shifting County millages to a General Operating Millages to allow more flexibility and could also include a Headlee Override Restoration. He added that General Fund dollars are versatile and generally not restricted which would allow flexibility in funding various priorities. The goal is to consider all revenue streams and expenditures to make sure the BOC has the resources available to address the needs of the community.

Mr. Dill went on to explain the details of the White Paper and some of the unfunded BOC priorities, including housing, climate action, infrastructure, animal control, violence intervention, transportation, and the uninsured in the community. We also have to consider the millage limitations which we are getting close to the 50-mill limit.

Mr. Vaughn pointed out that the Headlee override has been addressed recently on two separate millages by doing a “renew and restore”. He asked if continuing this practice was sufficient for this goal without the need to combine millages into a General Operating millage. Mr. Dill agreed that this has been successful. He added that he has not heard talk of eliminating the Parks or Roads Millage and that is not a recommendation from his office. However, he has heard some concern that some targeted millages are not being used in ways that the BOC and voters intended.

Ms. Bobrin asked for clarification on the comment about some of the targeted millages not being used appropriately. Mr. Dill responded that this was a concern voiced by a County Commissioner and he would rather not speak on their behalf. He added that from his lens, maximum flexibility in how millage revenue is used is the key.

Ms. Siddall asked when there will be action taken by the BOC to get the Roads and Trail Millage on the ballot. She added that if this millage is not being considered to be replaced by a General Operating Millage, when can we expect this to happen soon so WCRC and WCPARC staff can start the public outreach work? Mr. Dill explained that the BOC first priority is to pass the budget. Realistically, he didn’t believe that the BOC would be able to take action yet this year but likely by the 2nd meeting in January.

Ms. Fuller stated that she is most interested in clear and direct response on the timing of approving the ballot language for the Road and Trail Millage that was approved by the WCRC on October 5th. This millage has been renewed twice by voters with over 70% approval rate and she doesn’t understand why it is being held up. Mr. Dill responded that he does not set the board agenda, but he will make sure that board leadership and the board chair understand your concerns regarding timing.

Mr. Green asked how the shortfall was handled in the past. Mr. Dill explained that it is not a budget shortfall and that the BOC has passed a balanced budget and is able to operate on the thinnest of margins. The shortfall is not having the revenue to address new and emerging BOC priorities.

Mr. Pratt said that it sounds like everyone was looking for an affirmative response that these millages would not be rolled into a larger County Operating Millage. Both WCPARC and WCRC are responsible for delivering important services to the community and we would like to move forward with confidence that we have the resources to do so. Mr. Dill responded that he does not have the authority to answer these questions. Our nine elected officials must have time to consider options in move forward in a way that best serves the community.

Mr. Rabhi stated that, speaking as 1 of 9 Commissioners, he has no interest in undoing the successful WCPARC or WCRC millages nor has he heard this from other Commissioners. He stated his support for getting the Road and Trail Millage on an agenda ASAP. Mr. Rabhi also was thankful for the work of Mr. Dill and his team to develop the White Paper so the BOC understands the total picture and can make informed decisions.

Mr. Dill reiterated that he will make sure that the topic is on the agenda of the next board leadership meeting. He thanked WCPARC and WCRC for inviting him to the meeting but had to leave for another meeting and stated that Andrew DeLeeuw, his Deputy, would finish answering questions.

Mr. Vaughn noted his concern with the reference to “excess funds” in the fund balance of some Departments. He explained that although it may appear that WCPARC has a large fund balance, the funds are encumbered and dedicated to important community projects such as the Eastside Rec Center, the B2B, and Staebler Farm.

Mr. Joerg stated that the White Paper seems to be written with some bias towards one solution of a County Operating Millage. He asked for clarification that if a single County Operating Millage were to come to fruition, would all WCPARC and WCRC funding be at the discretion of the BOC. He added that we trust the current BOC but you never know what future could hold.

Mr. Ezekiel thanked Mr. Dill and his team for attending and answering the tough questions. He added that WCPARC and WCRC represent the BOC well and we do a good job of taking care of our business, so people are not showing up at BOC meeting to complain about Parks and Roads.

Ms. Bobrin added that the residents of the County vote for resources to be used for specific things, such as parks and roads. She added that the public would likely not be in favor of voting on a millage that is a “black box” where the funds can be used for anything at the whim of elected officials or staff.

Mr. DeLeeuw offered to make the suggested changes to the White Paper and committed to working with his team to address these concerns. He thanked both Commissions for the opportunity to be on the agenda today.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 2023, regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. Scott seconded by Ms. McCollum, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023; regular meeting as amended. All ayes, the motion was approved.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the communications, projects, and activities for the month of October 2023. He announced the upcoming retirement of Dan Cooperrider from Pierce Lake Golf Course and thanked him for his many years of exemplary service. Brian Klender gave an overview of golf course operations and highlights from the 2023 golf season. He also thanked Mr. Cooperrider for his hard work and leadership.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of October 2023, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Parks Millage Renewal Resolution
- B. Wetland Mitigation – M-52 B2B Trail Project
- C. Underwood Trust Distribution
- D. Phase III – Rolling Hills Concessions Project
- E. B2B – Engineering Services: Barton Dam to Maple Road
- F. Title IX Plaza Award

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Mr. Marans, to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

8. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2023

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of October 2023 was \$761,666.40.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to approve the claims for the month of October 2023 as submitted. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. Fund Balance Reports

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the Parks fund and Natural Areas Funds along with the fund balance status for each through October 31, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to receive and file the financial reports for October 2023 as submitted. All ayes, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

C. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2023. He also provided a comparison of revenue vs. expenditures for all facilities. He pointed out that across all facilities there is approximately a \$2M subsidy of WCPARC operating costs.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Scott, to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2023. All ayes, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

9. Old Business

A. NAPP – Haynes Property Final Approval

Ms. Kreuger presented the recommendation to purchase the Haynes Property located in Northfield Township. The 11.75-acre Hayes property was originally nominated in round 12 and is adjacent to the Whitmore Lake Preserve. The site includes a diverse landscape featuring upland woods, open fields, a significant portion of Lawton Lake and extensive wetlands.

In May 2023, the Parks Commission approved a sales contract in the amount of \$110,000 based on the appraised value. The sales contract was contingent upon completion of due diligence, which has since been completed.

Mr. Rabhi commented that he was thrilled to see this high-quality property protected and that this will be an excellent addition to the Whitmore Lake Preserve. Mr. Ezekiel agreed and talked about a Sierra Club hike to this property.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to authorize the fee simple purchase of the Haynes property in the amount of \$110,000, contingent upon attorney review of final closing documents, and that \$6,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future maintenance and management of the land. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. Connecting Communities Project Awards

Kira Macyda explained that the 2023 Round of CC grants were announced with a deadline of August 31. Four grant proposals were submitted from the following communities: Ann Arbor Township, Pittsfield Township, Scio Township and York Township. In 2023, planning/engineering funding requests totaled \$71,000 and construction funding requests totaled \$800,000.

Mr. Joerg asked how the Connecting Communities program was funded. Mr. Vaughn explained that the program is supported by the Road and Trails millage.

Mr. Rabhi asked if there are any requirements for responsible contractor provisions for construction projects under this program. Mr. Vaughn answered that the projects are all awarded and administered by the local unit of government, so it varies.

Mr. Pratt commented that WATS is interested in the program and would benefit from a presentation.

Ms. Macyda explained that all projects were reviewed and scored by the staff and the following funding recommendations were made:

Ann Arbor Township - \$250,000 for construction
Pittsfield Township - \$250,000 for construction
York Township - \$71,000 for planning and design

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Bobrin, to authorize staff to prepare project agreements and to award grant funding as recommended. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

C. Other Old Business

None.

10. New Business

A. Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Fee Modifications

Ms. Carr presented a proposal to increase fees at the MLM Rec Center beginning January 1, 2024. She explained that WCPARC maintains rates at the most affordable levels possible. However, periodically, the Commission adjusts fees at facilities to stay in keeping with industry trends and changes in the local market. The last fee modifications were done in 2022, nine years after the previous rate increase in 2013. Staff researched competitor fees and proposed a 10% increase for resident memberships and a 15% increase for non-residents. A 15% increase for class fees was also recommended.

Mr. Joerg pointed out that the revenue gap relative to expenditures has expanded since the pandemic. He asked staff why this was the case. Ms. Bonfiglio explained that this was a trend across the industry for many indoor facilities. Many patrons have found other exercise and fitness alternatives including investing in home equipment. Also, there are many fixed costs associated with operating a rec center that do not decline when the number of patrons decline. For numerous reasons, indoor facilities have been slower to rebound.

Mr. Joerg said that he voted against fee increases last time and may do the same this time. He is sympathetic to the tight budgets and record inflation for County residents.

Mr. Ezekiel responded that it is not the job of staff to address economic woes, but if there is a need in the community it should be addressed.

Mr. Rabhi stated that he was not a big fan of providing scholarships but there should be a way to lower rates for those that receive Medicaid or food assistance. Perhaps we should amend the motion to create a subcommittee to explore the issue of affordability and report back in 6-months. He added that we should be looking at all revenue streams and not only rates. Mr. Marans accepted the friendly amendment to his original motion.

Ms. Scott explained that her primary concern is raising rates for seniors that are on a fixed income. Mr. Ezekiel responded that most seniors, especially the demographic at MLM, are not as needy as most of our younger population. Ms. Bobrin agreed.

Mr. Joerg requested a working session, in addition to the subcommittee, where we can focus on appropriate fees for all facilities.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Pratt, to authorize staff to execute the proposed membership and class fee increases effective January 1, 2024, and to establish a subcommittee to explore fee structures and recommendations for future increases within the next 6 months. All ayes, 1 absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. Other New Business

None.

11. Commissioners / Directors Comments

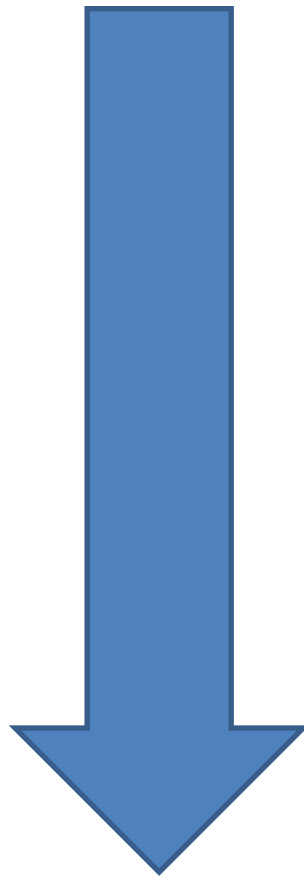
None.

12. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adjourn. All ayes, the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Communications, Projects & Activities



NOVEMBER 2023 NEWS COVERAGE

mLive - New Border-to-Border Trail segment along Huron River won't open this fall, 11/01/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/11/new-border-to-border-trail-segment-along-huron-river-wont-open-this-fall.html>

WEMU89.1 – Issues of the Environment: Ann Arbor fighting MDOT plans to fence off Amtrak rail corridor, 11/01/23 - <https://www.wemu.org/show/issues-of-the-environment/2023-11-01/issues-of-the-environment-ann-arbor-fighting-mdot-plans-to-fence-off-amtrak-rail-corridor>

MDNR - Move over men, women want to hunt too!, 11/11/23 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDNR/bulletins/37a1561>

mLive - See 3 cycling, walking pathway projects getting a \$571K boost from Washtenaw County, 11/15/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/11/see-3-cycling-walking-pathway-projects-getting-a-571k-boost-from-washtenaw-county.html>

mLive – 144-acre Washtenaw County farm protected in conservation deal 16 years in the making, 11/29/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/11/144-acre-washtenaw-county-farm-protected-in-conservation-deal-16-years-in-the-making.html>

*Dear Coy, Megan and WCPRC commissioners,
Happy Birthday! Happy New Year! And Happy Holidays,*

*I hope that you enjoy the articles that my son and I wrote for the
Gleanings, the award winning Upsilanti Historical Society magazine.*

*In honor of the 50th birthday of the amazing WCPRC I tried to condense
it's history in a few pages which wasn't easy because of all of the
wonderful things that have happened which enrich the lives of the citizens
of Washtenaw County.*

*My son Robert worked hard to research and write an article about Don
Stabler based on the memoirs that Don himself wrote. I hope that we never
forget what an amazing man he was. His memory will live on with the
newest county park and MichiganFolk School.*

*Both articles will soon be on the Upsilanti Historical Society web page
under the heading Gleanings, winter 2023 edition.*

*Please be sure to check pages 5 and 22 and I hope that you enjoy reading
them as much as we did writing them. Wishing you all many blessings in
the new year to come.*

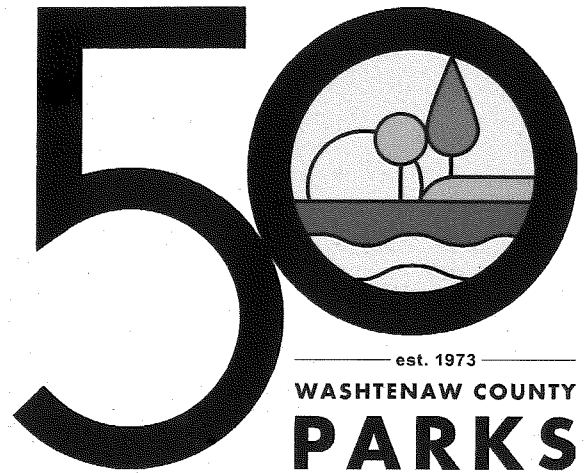
With gratitude and appreciation,

Janice Anschuetz and Robert Anschuetz

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission Celebrates 50 Years of Serving All of Us -

Happy Birthday

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ



As the city of Ypsilanti turns 200 years old in 2023, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) celebrates 50 years of service to Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County. Since 1973, when the commission was formed and funded with seed money of only \$65,000 from the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, some amazing things have happened which have improved all of our lives.



Meri Lou Murray.

I think you will find the history of this amazing organization interesting and it may inspire you to take a walk on the Border to Border (B2B) trail (which goes through the campus of Eastern Michigan University and both Riverside and Frog Island Parks), take a bike ride on the 5 miles of paved trails at Rolling Hills Park, or take a class in one of the folk arts such as spoon carving, blacksmithing or basket making at The Michigan Folk School at nearby Staebler Farm County Park. You could also indulge in any of the many classes taught at Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center that promote health and happiness or just sit on a bench at Riverside Park and watch families enjoying the handicap-accessible playground equipment donated by the WCPRC.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission grew from only a dream in 1973 to currently having 14 parks, over 75 miles of multi-use trails and 37 nature preserves and conservation easements in only 50 years. You may be wondering how this happened. To begin with, the late Nelson Meade, a founding member of the commission, wrote a detailed account of the history of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission from his memory, experience and facts, which provides the substance of this article. I also feel qualified to tell you the story of the WCPRC since I retired from the WCPRC board three years ago after serving for 47 years.

It may surprise you to learn that the WCPRC came about

as a sort of a "good accident". In 1972 Meri Lou Murray, a teacher living in Ann Arbor, was the chair of Ann Arbor's Third Ward Democratic Party. It was her job to find a candidate for county commissioner. Meade tells us that *"her district was considered a Republican stronghold and no one wanted to go through the motions just to have their name on the ballot, so the committee told her she would have to fill the slot. They then helped her come up with campaign issues."* Many members of this group were already advocating for parks, recreation, community gardens, walking trails and so forth so it was no surprise that Murray's main campaign promise was to aspire to have a county wide park system. Somehow this idea touched the hearts and souls of the voters and she won with an astonishing victory and thus, the embryo of the WCPRC was created.

Meade tells us *"It is hard to imagine how rare parks were in 1972. The bigger cities had them, but aside from a few Huron-Clinton Metroparks on the Huron River and a couple of state parks at the northwest edge of the county, the only ones were in the rural sections of the county and were roadside parks under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Road Commission."* Recreation for city families at that time often meant a drive in the country. Fast food places were few and far between so the family picnic basket was packed with something like a lunch of cold fried chicken, bologna sandwiches or similar. Add to this a scotch plaid metal cooler filled with Kool Aid. Then, after driving for an hour or so and admiring corn fields and cows it was time to search for a place to stop the car, stretch your legs and eat. The fortunate family would find a small "roadside park" at the side of the road equipped with a hand pump, picnic table and smelly outhouse. During the 1970s some large parks existed in Washtenaw County but they were privately owned and available to rent to organizations such as German clubs, Knights of Columbus, the Elks, and so forth. Even Independence Lake, which is now a popular WCPRC park started out as a private park where, after parking your car, you had to find the farmer who owned the land and pay him for the privilege of fishing, swimming or picnicking.

When Murray was running for Washtenaw County Commissioner in 1972, her first campaign speech summarized this reality. *"Currently the Washtenaw County of Parks is merely a minor part of the County Road Commission...The Board of Commissioners must institute a true parks department charged with the responsibility and the authority to acquire parkland now to anticipate future recreational needs."*

Murray lived to see her dream, and that of others, come true and was always vigilant in her vision and purpose. When I once asked her about her powers of persuasion, she told me that her secret weapon was "cookies." If someone disagreed on one of her positions or proposals they would soon be gifted with a plate of homemade cookies and, while discussing their differences of opinion while munching on a cookie or two, the issue might be resolved. I don't know if Meri Lou brought cookies with her when she met with the Washtenaw County Road Commission to suggest that they allow the newly formed WCPRC to take over their four roadside parks, the 205-acre parcel of land on North Territorial Road given

to them by the state in 1960 and the \$20,000 which was received from the Board of Commissioners each year for caring for them. However, Murray reported that they were very cooperative and this land would fit into her campaign promise of providing parks.

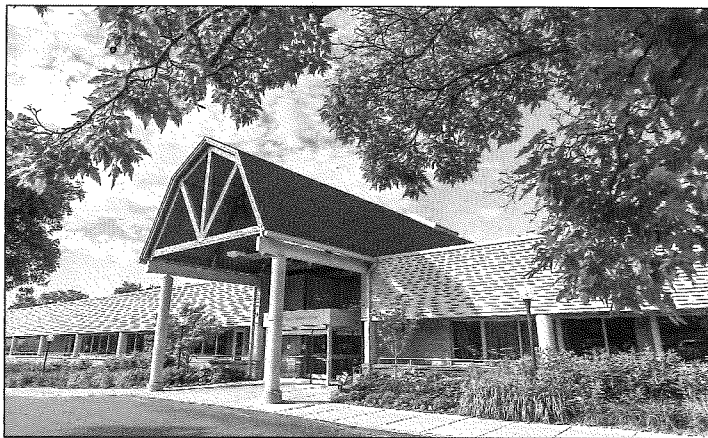
In 1965 the State of Michigan legislators passed a law which encouraged counties to appoint Parks and Recreation Commissions and designated that by law the individual commission must have on their boards the chair of the road commission, the drain commissioner, a member of the county planning commission, one to three county commissioners as well as community members. With the newly acquired land and this legislation, the WCPRC was created. The county commission also gave them a small budget of \$65,000 a year for a few years. The County Board of Commissioners also carefully considered applications for citizen positions on the WCPRC and were wise in selecting members with expertise in parks, recreation, and conservation. Thus, the first meeting was held in August, 1973. The search for a director and subsequent staff ensued. Luckily for Washtenaw County,

the man that could do the job of providing the ground work for the new parks and recreation system was available and willing - Bob Gamble. Meade who was one of the first commissioners stated *"It was the best thing that happened to us because he knew what he was doing. He was a perfect match for the job."* Gamble was leaving a job as Parks Director in Nassau County, Long Island, after many years and was willing to take a reduced salary and move to the Ann Arbor area and start anew in shaping what was to become one of the best county parks departments in the state of Michigan.

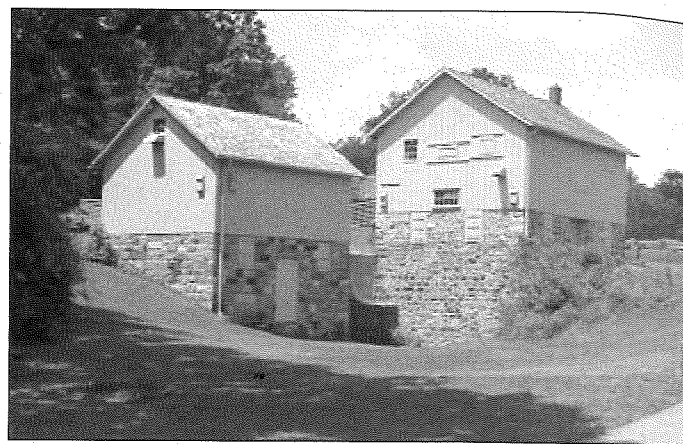
In 1974 there was serious unemployment in our country and the Federal Government funded a program called CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act - to put to work those that needed a job. Bob Gamble used the CETA program to staff the new parks and recreation system with employee wages paid for by the Federal Government. For the most part the people hired were very well qualified for their positions and the department quickly rose from one member - the director - to others such as park planner, recreation specialist, deputy director,



County Farm Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Meri Lou Murray (center) and Nelson Meade (Right).



Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center at the Edge of Nelson Meade County Farm Park includes an Indoor Track, Swimming Pool, Exercise Equipment, Basketball Courts, and Pickle Ball Courts.



Parker Mill Park features a Restored Mill, Trails and Beautiful Landscape for Walking.

a senior citizens recreation coordinator who traveled to various communities such as Whitmore Lake to help them develop programs, grounds keepers, and so forth. The commission headquarters were then in the county service center at Washtenaw Avenue and Hogback Road above the sheriff department's rifle range. WCPRC employees soon had to learn to ignore shots being fired below them while they worked. The gym in the facility, which was once a Roman Catholic seminary, was used for the few classes offered. Cross country ski rentals and lessons were held on the site of the former county hospital on Washtenaw Avenue.

I joined the commission soon after it was formed, taking the place of another woman who had scheduling conflicts. I had run a volunteer recreation program in Ypsilanti at a school at the time, and was nominated by someone who felt that all county boards should have poor people on them as well as women. I fit the bill because I was poor, a woman, had a background in recreation, and possessed newly acquired degrees in sociology and history from EMU, and a Master's Degree in social work from U of M. I also grew up participating in recreation programs and visiting parks, as my five children and their children still do to this day. I was lucky because there was a community center attached to

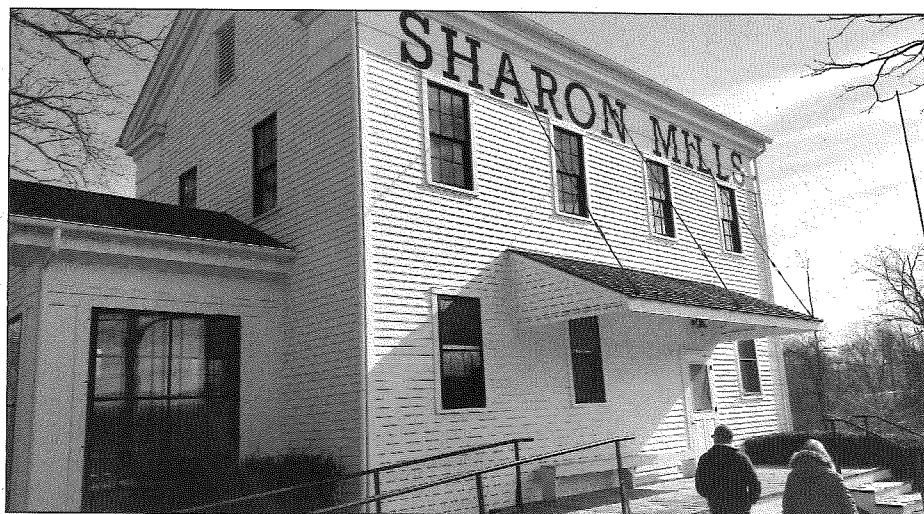
my elementary school in Detroit. I can still sing the song which I performed in a dance on a stage when I was four years old and I remember the dance steps as well so if you want to see "Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick Chicken" performed I'm your gal.

Now that the WCPRC was created, it was time to determine its mission and priorities. Director Gamble led us through the painstaking process of outlining the purpose and procedures necessary for making sure that the taxpayers of the county were being served. Fortunately, one of the first commissioners appointed was Dr. Robert Marans who was employed by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and is still on the board. He arranged for summer practicum students at U of M to do a detailed and pointed survey on recreation priorities for residents. When the results were tabulated, at the top of the citizen wish list was the need to preserve open spaces plus a desire for beaches and biking.

All of this would require a steady source of income for the commission and so in 1976 a millage election was held. I remember that along with other commissioners and staff we waited until late in the night at the county building for election results to learn that the vote lost by only 349 votes. Although we were devastated, a vote was quickly held among us with unan-

imous agreement that we would ask the board of commissioners to put the question of the millage on the next ballot. The money raised then could be used as a match for federal and state parks and recreation funds and private grants for land purchase and recreation opportunities. At that time, as is now, developers were quickly buying up vacant parcels of land, some of which included potential parkland. Based on survey results, Independence Lake was on our "shopping list." Lucky for all of us, that millage passed with over 5000 votes to spare and the WCPRC has never again lost a millage campaign.

Meade tells us, "A steady source of revenue meant that the parks commission could apply for grants that called for matching money. Soon after the election they won a grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy and develop Independence Lake and Rolling Hills." Adding to this, in 1979 the County Board of Commissioners generously gave the 127 acres of open land in the middle of the city of Ann Arbor to the WCPRC for preservation and recreation. This extremely popular park is well used today by groups and individuals and is named the Nelson Meade County Farm Park. Located at its edge, on Washtenaw Avenue, is the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center. It was named to honor this dedicated,



Sharon Mills County Park on the Banks of the River Raisin.

hardworking, and imaginative county commissioner for her 24 years of service to both the county commission and the WCPRC.

Soon after, in 1980, Independence Lake Park was lovingly developed with a swimming lake, hiking trails and a non-motorized boat launch, and opened to the public. This same year Bob Gamble retired and was replaced by Roger Shedlock. Under his watch the list of resident wishes continued to be checked off by creating Rolling Hills County Park which was to become a county park on the east side of Washtenaw County with a beach and more. With a complicated land acquisition, several small farms were combined to provide the land. A small pond for swimming was created by damming a creek and enlarging a small pond on the property. A toboggan run was built for winter recreation, but proved unsustainable because the winters were too warm to allow the ice time to freeze on the run. A very popular disc golf course and a mountain bike trail were also created. Today the park has expanded to include five miles of paved trails for walking, running, biking, a water park with slides, a wave pool with a lazy river, group picnic areas, soccer fields, a family tree house and lots of year-round fun for all ages and abilities.

Rolling Hills opened in 1983 and the

following year Parker Mill on Geddes Road was opened satisfying the citizen's wish for historic preservation using a new source of funding with State Land Trust funds. Parker Mill was built originally in 1824 by Robert Fleming as a saw mill and then purchased by William and Mary Parker in 1873 who used the dam and old foundation to build a grist and then a cider mill. The mill stayed in the family until 1959 when it was bought by a land development firm. Included in the purchase was a small log cabin then located on Geddes Road but since restored and moved into a lovely meadow of Parker Mill County Park. The trail system of this park was provided by a bequest for \$654,000 to honor Hoyt Post who had as a boy loved to walk along Fleming Creek. This also provided the funds to build a bridge to link a small amount of land and build a gazebo reached by tunneling under busy



Janice Anschuetz in Front of the Rolling Hills Park Dedication Plaque.

Geddes Road – a delightful spot along Fleming Creek.

In 1985 Fred Barkley was hired as director and brought new life and enthusiasm to the WCPRC. He continued to check off the items of interest which the citizens of Washtenaw County had provided for the commission. With a growing park system, the need for better offices which were not above a firing range was apparent and the citizens of the county asked for an indoor swimming pool, as well as gym, exercise equipment, an indoor track and classroom space. Thus, the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center was built.

When these projects were finished another recreation opportunity was on the drawing board. The Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea provides an award-winning place to recreate and relax in a rural setting complete with nature trails. Still answering the citizen's request of historic preservation, Sharon Mills County Park was purchased in 1999. The basis of this park and destination is the grist mill on the Raisin River built in the 1830's by an abolitionist with links to the underground railroad. It was completely restored to historic specifications with additional land adjacent and nearby providing trails for biking, walking and exploration of the River Raisin.

Barkley retired in 2001 and was replaced by Robert Tetens who approached the job with enthusiasm and imagination. Two amazing recent additions to the WCPRC programs were the Natural Areas Preservation



Nelson Meade and Janice Anschuetz (WCPRC Commissioners) and Don Stabler then Age 102 - Circa 2012.

Program and the Border-to-Border Trail which is now near completion and will allow the ambitious biker or hiker the opportunity to travel by trail from Belle Isle in Detroit to the Upper Peninsula by way of the Iron Belle Trail, and the less ambitious to enjoy a comfortable ride or walk in Washtenaw County.

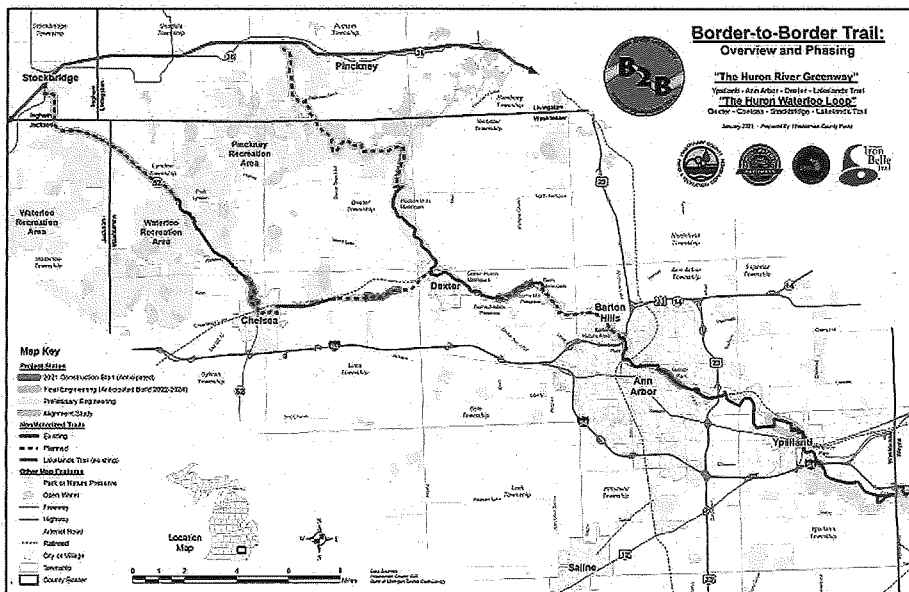
The Natural Areas Preservation Program along with the agricultural land preservation program are a major addition to the WCPRC system and will ensure that county residents in future generations will enjoy preserved land and agriculture. These are funded by a separate millage and, if possible, partnered by state, federal and local grants which will assure that land with significant physical characteristics or plants can be protected. The agricultural component assists farms to continue to operate in Washtenaw County by purchasing preservation rights to the land.

When Tetens retired in 2017 the Deputy Director, Coy Vaughn, took over the reins of the WCPRC and has worked tirelessly to run the now complex and diversified parks and recreation system. The recent and highly popular Michigan Folk School on Plymouth Road east of Prospect Road is off to

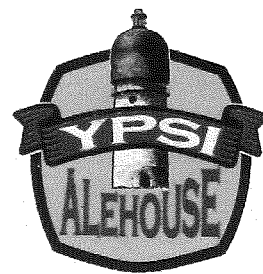
an incredible start with the building of a new headquarters at Staebler Farm County Park, which is still an ongoing project. With input from the public, it promises to become a destination park.

So, in 50 years starting with \$65,000, dedicated CETA staff, and a few roadside parks, the Washtenaw County parks system has grown into one of the best park systems in the state. HAPPY BIRTHDAY Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and may your upcoming years be happy and healthy ones and may this little review inspire the reader to enjoy all of the fun and beauty offered through the tireless efforts of the WCPRC staff which has improved the quality of life for so many of us.

(Janice Anschuetz has lived in the historic east side of Ypsilanti for over 50 years. She served 47 years on the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission from its early inception. She is the author of the chapter "How the Historic East Side Came Back to Life" in the new book celebrating Ypsilanti's bicentennial titled "Ypsilanti Histories – A Look Back at the Past 50 Years." She is an Ypsilanti historian and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail Map.



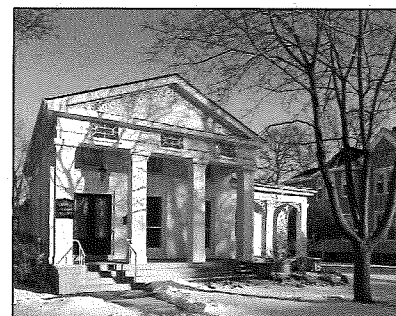
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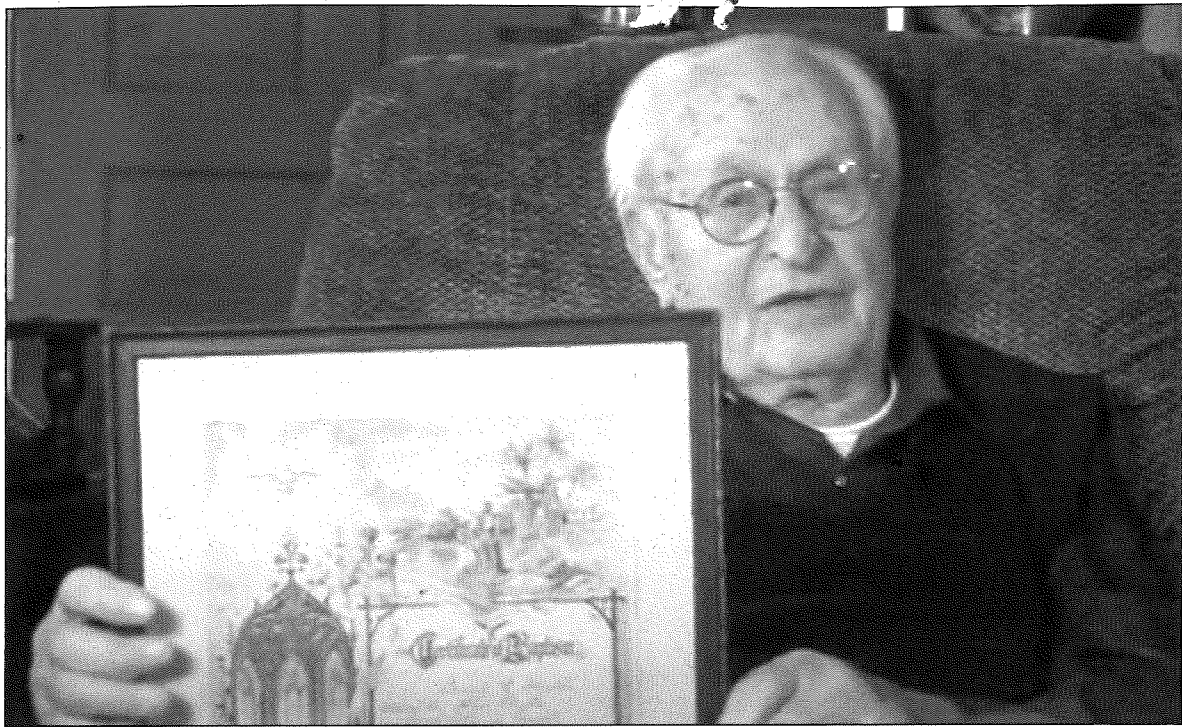


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101-year-old Don Staebler holds his baptismal certificate.

Don Staebler and Staebler Farm County Park

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Much of the information in this article was captured from a short video documentary titled "101 Years – The Don Staebler Story" produced by Jim Campbell and Exciting Productions, and hosted by Dale Leslie, Dixboro historian. Tom Freeman, from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WPARC), also participated in the video. The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/UTOKCiz2mT4>. Don Staebler also wrote a lengthy family biography titled "The Staebler Family in Superior Township - Crick in th' back farm" that is available to peruse at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum Archives.

This is a story of a Washtenaw County family who worked on a farm on the outskirts of Ypsilanti for over 100 years. As the last family member was reaching the end of his life, he sold the farm to Washtenaw County for use as a county park that allows it to look much as it was, and also provides demonstrations and classes of farming techniques from over a century ago. Let's start with the family's Washtenaw County patriarch, Gottlob Staebler.

Gottlob Staebler was born in Germany in 1838. In 1848, he immigrated with his family to the United States. In 1871, he settled on a 120-acre farm on Prospect Road in Superior Township on the south side of Frains Lake with his wife Gertrude. The farmhouse they built around 1885 still stands. Gottlob and Gertrude Staebler raised four children in their Superior Township farmhouse – Edward, Matilda, Albert and Eugene.

Albert Staebler was born in 1877 and grew up on the family farm on Prospect Road. He attended Frains Lake School, and later worked at the Michigan Ladder Company. Albert married Ella Louisa Lucretia Goodell in 1905, shortly after they met at a country dance. Albert and Ella rented several farms in the area near Geddes Road, but after the last farm they were renting was sold, they had to move. Albert and Ella raised six children named Donald, Lloyd, George, Melvin, Helen and Ruth. Donald G. Staebler was born on August 18, 1910 while the family was living on a rented farm on Geddes Road. He was born at home with the doctor in attendance. Don was baptized at the Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor on June 23, 1911.

In 1912, Albert and Ella Staebler purchased their family farm in Superior Township on Frains Lake near the intersection of Plymouth Road and Prospect Road, a short distance from Albert's parents' home. The farm would come to be known as the "Crick in th' back Farm" and would remain in the family for over 100 years. The 97 acres of land were purchased from Frank Galpin. When they arrived at their new homestead a few miles from their rented farm, Ella drove the one-horse buggy with the elder children onboard, and Albert drove the team of horses pulling a wagon with all of their worldly possessions. The Staebler farm lies on both the north and south side of Plymouth Road, which was barely a dirt trail back then. The house is south of Plymouth Road and the barn and outbuildings are north of Plymouth Road.

All six of Albert and Ella's children attended the one-room Frains Lake primary school. The school had eight grades



Staebler Farm on Plymouth Road in 1916.

in one room with one teacher. Each grade had a class in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography and perhaps health. That limited recitation time to only a few minutes per subject per class and practically no time for individual help. One year, the school had one teacher, 40 kids, and only 39 desks. If all of the children were in attendance on any given day, it would be truly a game of musical chairs to see which child was left standing. All of Albert and Ella's children would go on to graduate from Ypsilanti High School, and all six received a college degree. It was certainly very rare in the early 1900s to have all the children who grew up on a rural farm end up with college degrees.

The Staebler children had to attend to several chores on the farm. For example, on a daily basis during harvest season, one of the boys turned a stone wheel while their father sharpened the scythe for cutting hay. The children started milking cows at age 10. They also fed the cattle, swept floors, hoed weeds, harnessed horses and moved hay bales. The children also had some time for fun, and the boys would often play at Prospect Park in Ypsilanti.

Don Staebler later wrote about the early 1900's life on the farm in all four seasons. Here are some excerpts from each of the seasons: *Spring: Spring house cleaning became the order of the day. As soon as the soil warmed up Dad hitched the horses to the old walking plow and got the garden ready for planting. "Peas had to be in the ground on Good Friday." The chickens were happy to be let out*

of their coop, where they had been "cooped up" all winter and they now got some of their food from outdoors – grass, bugs, table scraps. The cows had to be milked, but it was always a relief when they could be let out to pasture and there was no more feeding and barn cleaning. Now garden planting became a priority, usually for Mom and the kids. There were rows and rows of sweet corn, potatoes, carrots, lettuce and plants of tomatoes and cabbage to be set out – all of which in a few weeks would need weeding and watering. Meanwhile, Dad and the older boys were working in the barnyard pitching, by hand into the horse drawn spreader, the huge piles of manure that had accumulated during the winter. As soon as all the manure had been spread on the corn ground, Dad was currying and harnessing the horses and heading for the field for spring plowing. He used the old one furrow-walking plow and in later years a sulky plow on which he could ride. There was al-

ways great satisfaction in seeing the long ribbons of freshly turned earth unrolled across the field, smelling the good earth, listening to the creaking of the harnesses and the sound of horses' hooves, and perhaps to the laughter of the barefooted kids following in the new furrow.

Summer: As soon as the corn grew enough so that rows could be seen, two horses pulled the one row cultivator to keep the weeds under control between the rows. This was a seemingly never-ending job until the corn was about two feet tall. Meanwhile, weeds in the garden and in the corn rows had to be chopped out with a hoe, and then just before Independence Day kids were sent to chop out the thistles in the pasture and earning money to buy firecrackers, sparklers, and sky rockets. Haying had already begun – rake in the morning the previous day's mowing, then mow some for the next day. In the afternoon, when the raked hay was dry, it was loaded with the hay loader and hauled to the barn, then unloaded with the horse powered hayfork and hoisting ropes and equipment. The big job was spreading and stacking the loose hay up in the hot and dusty haymow as fast as it was being unloaded – then on to the grain harvest. We cut the crop of oats or wheat with a binder, which tied it into bundles and dropped them onto the ground in rows. The kids stood the bundles up into "shocks" to dry. Then, as soon as

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Lloyd, Helen, and Don Staebler circa 1920.

the neighborhood threshing rig could be scheduled, came threshing day.

Fall: There were garden crops to be harvested and canned for the winter, potatoes to be dug, picked up by hand, and stored in the cool basement, late apples to be picked and stored. One crop yet to be harvested before the long monotony of winter – corn. Some of the green crop is cut by hand and hauled to the pasture for the cows to supplement the now maturing grass. The job of getting the silo filled with winter's feed is now at hand. Sometime during the fall we might butcher a hog or two or perhaps a beef. One or two men came to help and took home a share for themselves.

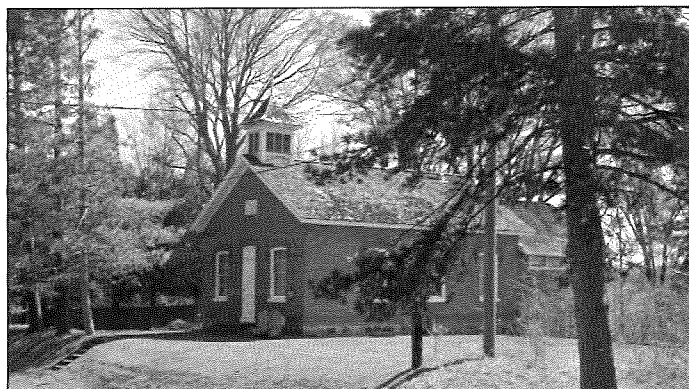
Winter: Dad was up at 5:30 or 6:00 o'clock while the rest of us, snuggled in our warm beds, waited for him to get the kitchen warm by building a fire in the kitchen range. He lighted the kerosene lantern, picked up the milk pail and strainer, and headed to the barn to milk the dozen cows every farmer kept. Milk was the only steady cash crop, producing the monthly milk check. Mother was the next to brave the cold house. She built a fire in the "Round Oak" heating stove in the dining room. After all had made the quick and cold morning trip to the "necessary house" out back, the boys put on heavy jackets, their socks and rubbers, appropriate head gear and headed for the barn to help milk and "do chores." School didn't start until 9 o'clock so that farm chores could be completed before school. A fifteen-minute recess in forenoon and one in the afternoon was a break in the routine, which usually resulted in a mad dash for coats and boots to go sledding in the schoolyard or to clamp on skates to rush out on the ice on Frains Lake. Noon was a full hour and lunches were eaten in a hurry to get out and play. School was out at four o'clock, and most kids were expected to hurry home to do chores. The evening was spent listening to Amos and Andy on the radio or some other good program, and then around the lamp lit dining table, kids did school work or played games. Mother was mending or sewing, or cracking hickory nuts for a cake, and Dad was reading the paper delivered by mail one day late.

The Staebler family lived approximately equidistant between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, near Dixboro, but they always went to Ypsilanti for food and supplies because of the better roads, with the main route into Ypsilanti being Prospect Road. This was before Plymouth Road was a main thoroughfare that would later provide an easy route toward Dixboro and Ann Arbor. The road to Ypsilanti wasn't plowed back then, so they took a shovel with them when they traveled in winter.

Don recalled hearing about the end of World War I through a telephone call. At the time, there were about 14 subscribers on the shared telephone line. During emergencies, the telephone switchboard operator in Ann Arbor would provide a long steady ring to alert the residents. On November 11, 1918, the telephones of the families in Superior Township received such a long steady ring. Knowing something was going on, the family piled into their 1917 Maxwell automobile and headed to Ann Arbor. The family witnessed celebrants pulling tin cans from behind their car and soon found out the great war had ended.

Electricity was brought to the Staebler farm in 1920 to power lights in the farmhouse. It was a 32-volt direct-current battery-operated system, with a gasoline powered generator to keep the batteries charged. The batteries were stored in an outdoor shelter. In 1929, Detroit Edison brought traditional 110-volt alternating-current to the farm, and they ditched their old system. With their new electrical system, the barn got lights and milking pumps, and the house received a water pump and electricity for other appliances like a clothes washer. Prior to that, water was supplied by a hand pump in the kitchen which drew water from a cistern under the porch that collected rain water supplied by the gutters from the roof.

The barn on the property was built in 1922 by three Ypsilanti carpenters - Bill Shoart, Freeman Shoart, and Libe Gale. The carpenters tore down an old barn on the property, and built a new one without any power tools. The cash crop in the early days of the farm was typically wheat, with other portions of the farm growing corn for cattle feed.



Frains Lake one-room schoolhouse still stands on Plymouth Road.

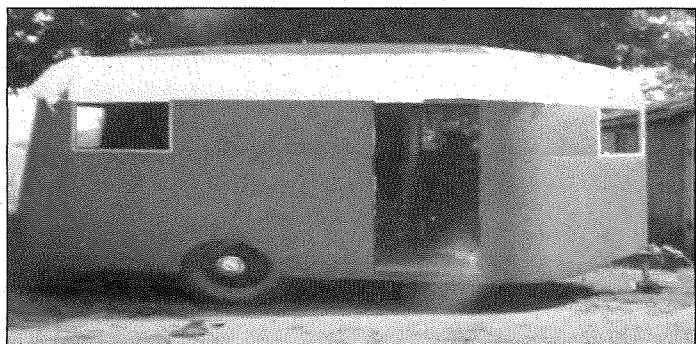


Don Staebler plows his field in 1942.

Whipping cream was 50 cents a quart. The family also had some hogs and chickens. The farm had stalls for five horses that were used for plowing and pulling the wagon and buggy in the early days.

Don attended Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University), graduating in 1934 with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Arts, along with a teaching certificate. Three years into the program, the MSNC department-head notified Don about a teaching job at Eaton Rapids High School. This job was to be for only one year while the instructor there took a sabbatical to finish his degree. After that year of teaching, Don was able to return to MSNC to complete his own degree. After Don's graduation, the teacher at Eaton Rapids quit, and Don returned there to teach industrial arts and was promoted to principal at Eaton Rapids High School where he remained until 1942. While in Eaton Rapids, he was a member of the Eaton Rapids Kiwanis, and served as its president for a year.

Don and Lena Staebler developed a love for traveling that lasted a lifetime. Don hand-built a travel trailer in 1937 that they took on several trips out west and to the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee. Don built a gas stove and sleeping couch in the trailer. Don won two prizes from *Popular Science Monthly* magazine and was featured in a May 1937 article titled "Ideas to Help You Build a Better Trailer." One of the prizes was for his method of constructing an axle, and the other prize was for his method of developing vacu-



Don Staebler's award winning travel trailer in 1937.



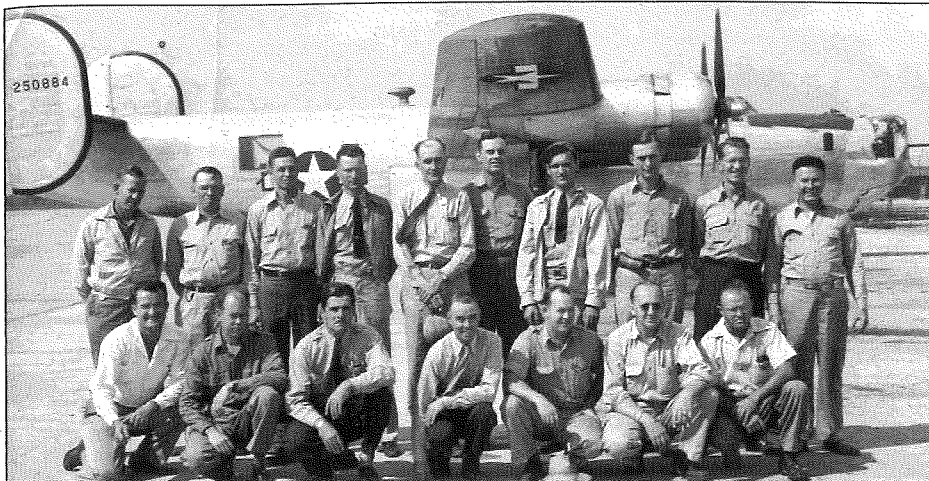
Don Staebler in front of his family homestead at age 101.

um brakes. On their numerous vacations, Lena's job was to keep records of gasoline and food purchases, the gas mileage, and the towns visited. They recorded each of their trips in a diary, and also wrote their destinations on their table top.

In 1942, Don became a maintenance instructor at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, working for Ford Motor Company, under a contract with the Army Air Force Technical Training Command. There, he taught Army cadets maintenance on the B-24 bombers. From 1945 to 1946, Don moved overseas and was an instructor at the Warton Army Technical School, Lancashire, England, where he provided technical and industrial training for American servicemen prior to returning to civilian life. Upon returning home from the war, Don developed a partnership with his father on the family dairy farm. Don and Lena occupied the upstairs of the family farmhouse, entering through an exterior stairway entrance Don built in 1948, and his parents occupied the lower floor.

In 1952, Albert Staebler died and Don and Lena purchased the farm from Don's mother. Don and Lena moved downstairs and rented the upstairs. Don and Lena continued operating the dairy farm for the next decade, with a herd of about 35 dairy cows. In 1961, Don sold the dairy herd, turned the farm to raising beef cattle, and began a career as a Technician Supervisor at the Eaton Corporation Research Center in Southfield. Don retired from the Eaton Corporation in 1975 at age 65. After retirement, he remained on the farm, raising beef cattle.

During his time on the farm, Don held other positions to supplement his income and keep him busy. From 1946-1958, Don taught auto mechanics in the Adult Education Program at Ann Arbor High School two nights per week. From 1948 until 1978 he served on the Superior Township Planning Commission, Board of Review, and Zoning Board of Appeals. For a few years, he was chairman of all three boards. Don and Lena were long-time members of the Dixboro Methodist Church, and for a while Don served as Superintendent of the church's Sunday School and as Secre-



Don Staebler (Back Row, 4th from left) taught B-24 maintenance at Willow Run.

tary of the Finance Committee. Lena Staebler passed away in 1991.

In 2001, Don sold his 98-acre farm fronting Frains Lake to Washtenaw County for future use as a county park, retaining a life lease to live there. At the time, Don was 90 years old and still tended a herd of 46 Angus beef cattle, personally feeding them every day. Staebler sold the farm to the county because he didn't want to see it developed. Don said at the time, *"I could have sold it to a developer for a higher price, but I didn't want this area filled up with houses. I want it to stay as open space. That's important as far as I am concerned."* The farm includes an historic farmstead, farmhouse, outbuildings, barns, pastures, and farm fields. The site also includes two natural lakes (Frains and Murray), Fleming Creek, two man-made ponds, woodlots, and wetlands. One of the ponds, Peaceful Pond, was formed in 1976 when M-14 was built and they needed to dig gravel for the construction. The resulting pit filled with water and became a beautiful pond. The property also includes a stand of tamarack, or larch trees, which are deciduous conifers that are more common in northern Michigan. Several original trees planted on the property when the Staebler's moved in over 100 years ago are still standing.

After selling the property to Washtenaw County in 2001, Don lived another

decade on the farm, so the process of converting the property into a Washtenaw County Park wasn't realized until recently. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPARC) made several repairs and improvements on the property, including a complete restoration of the 100-year-old barn which won an award from the Michigan Barn Preservation Network in 2011.

In his final years, Don moved to Pennsylvania to be taken care of by his sister-in-law Mary Ciminnisi-Staebler's family, who referred to Don as Uncle Duck. Don passed away at the Ball Pavilion of Brevillier Village in Erie, Pennsylvania at age 106 on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Staebler is buried at the Dixboro Oak Grove Cemetery.

WCPARC also recently acquired the

Michigan Folk School from Jason and Julia Gold, which had been conducting courses at the Staebler Farm, and formally rolled the folk school into the Staebler Farm County Park. In 2023, WCPARC completed the Blackbird Lodge on the property which will be used in conjunction with the farmhouse, barn, woodshop, and blacksmith shop to teach traditional folk-art crafts such as blacksmithing, archery, broom craft, bush craft, gardening & farming, food preparation, glass, jewelry & metalwork, leather, millinery & dressmaking, and woodworking. The folk-art school offers more than 300 classes each year in over 18 categories.

Don Staebler and his family owned and farmed their property on Plymouth Road for over 100 years. Don was dedicated to preserving the family history, and the history of the farm, writing many stories of his experiences there. By selling his property to the Washtenaw County, and its transition to the Staebler Farm County Park, it will allow generations of residents to experience life on a farm as it was over 100 years ago.

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



Staebler Farm County Park Blackbird Lodge ribbon cutting on September 12, 2023.

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November 20

Will Hathaway, Scio Twp Supervisor

November 27

Mary Buck, Foundation Executive Director; Budget, Goals, and Strategies for the 2023/24 year.



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CLUB OF ANN ARBOR



Volume 15, Issue 7

November 13, 2023

Max Ziegler delivered an invocation dedicated to the joy of friendship. We should all be thankful for our friends, old and new, and how they enhance our lives.

Club meetings are recorded, click this [link](#) to view today's and past Zoom meetings.

TODAY'S PROGRAM...

MICHIGAN FOLK SCHOOL

Dale Leslie Introduced our speaker, Jason Gold, of the Michigan Folk School. Jason teaches people artisan crafting. Whether we are tying a broom, designing a chair, or sewing a



Jason Gold

leather carrying bag, his goal is to create an environment wherein a person can learn to harmonize their hands, head, and heart together to achieve a wonderful product. It's a unique and rewarding experience, and the fulfillment of a community that cares about tradition.

Jason was born and raised in Michigan with the gift of gab and the curiosity of a cat. He got his start in crafting when he was about 12 years old. His grandfather took him out into the woods where a walnut tree had recently fallen due to a storm. His grandfather had a saw, an axe and a knife. Jason sat on a log watching as his grandfather, within about an hour and a half, created a wooden stool. This amazed Jason as he had never seen anything like that. His Grandfather said that "The story can be found in the log; the story can be found in the tool, and the story can be found in today". He never forgot that as it was his introduction to crafting and woodworking, which he has been doing ever since.

Jason is a furniture maker today and prides himself in both wood and leather working. His interest in crafting runs so deep that it brought him to the Michigan Folk School. He said that a Folk School is a school that teaches a craft that is worth knowing. Folk Schools emphasizes not only manual abilities but also the individual's connection to the community and appreciation for its traditional know-how. The goal is maximum personal development within a societal structure. Each student is educationally challenged yet free to

What is a Folk School?

- A Folk Schools emphasizes not only manual abilities, but also the individual's connection to the community and appreciation for its traditional know-how.
- Folk schools focus on learning for the sake of learning - no exams, no credits, no term papers, no competition
- Folk School emphasis that the individual is seen as a part of a community, connected to a time, and place in a multi-cultural society.
- Classes are held in intentionally small atmospheres where teachers and students learn together.
- The goal is maximum personal development within a societal structure. Each student is educationally challenged yet free to learn in their own way, at their own pace.

learn in their own way, at their own pace. Today there are over 150 Folk Schools in the country. They focus on learning for learning's sake. There are no tests. They pride themselves on teaching all different types of crafts, from many different walks of life, and from many different cultures. They do everything from cheese making to natural bee keeping, model making, wine making, beer brewing, basketry, stained glass, boat making, and shoe making. Definitely something for everyone!

—TODAY'S PROGRAM CONTINUED ON PAGE 4—

TODAY'S PROGRAM CONTINUED...

The Michigan Folk School started in 2012 with 3 instructors and today they have 42 instructors teaching 24 different crafts. They're affiliated with Washtenaw Community College, and are also a part of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. Jason added that they purchased all of the knitting needles for their classes from our Kiwanis Thrift Store, and even the sweater he was wearing was knitted from yarn purchased at the Sale. We thank him for being with us today and keeping these essential skills alive.

History & Future of the Michigan Folk School

- **October 2011** - Began as a single chicken processing workshop
- **January 2012** - Officially formed an organization
- **February 2013** - Established a relationship with Washtenaw Community College to folk classes in five subject areas.
- **December 2015** - initiated a property campus search
- **May 2016** - began a relationship with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to design a folk village on the grounds of Staebler Farm County Park
- **December 2017** - completed first fundraiser for campus creation - \$45,000 matched by the MEDC
- **January 2019** - Soft opening of the new Wood Studio building
- **February 2022** - Began construction on Multi-Purpose Building at Staebler
- **October 2022** - Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Come-on votes to approve acquisition of Michigan Folk School
- **January 2023** - Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Come-on votes to approve acquisition of Michigan Folk School
- **October 2023** - Blackbird Lodge opens for classes

Variety of Classes

natural BEEkeeping WildCrafting shoe MAKING
 Blacksmithing Cheesemaking Leatherwork
 Homesteading Stained Glass Ceramics
 Fermentation Basketry Mountain Dulcimer
 BOOKBINDING Storytelling Furniture Making
 Hide tanning Boat Making Hide Tanning

"The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages is preserved into perpetuity by a nation's proverbs, fables, folk sayings and quotations."
 -William Feather



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CHELSEA KIWANIS CLUB NUT SALE...

Beginning this Saturday, November 18, you can help support the Chelsea Club in their annual fundraiser as they sell gift tins during the Sale at the KC. See the flyer at left for more information on the items available. These make great last-minute gifts!



Digital Report - November 2023

This monthly report will highlight our social media outreach, website analytics, newsletters, items in the news, and recent snapshots around the parks.

Monthly comparisons will be used to track data and improve our outreach.

Useful definitions for this report

Impressions

A Facebook metric related to the visibility of our posts is referred to as impressions. Impressions measure the number of times our posts were seen. That includes if one post was seen multiple times by a single user.

Engagement

Engagement measures the number of times someone took action on our posts. That could mean clicking a link, sharing our post, making a reaction or leaving a comment.



Digital Report - November 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Followers, Impressions, Engagements

Page	Followers	Net Follower Growth	Fans	Net Page Likes	Published Posts	Impressions	Engagements	Post Link Clicks
Reporting Period	38,024	41	34,970	32	37	60,309	1,740	88
Nov 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023	↗ 0.1%	↘ 87.4%	↗ 0.1%	↘ 28.9%	↘ 22.9%	↘ 34.2%	↘ 59.7%	↘ 58.9%
Compare to	37,983	326	34,946	45	48	91,656	4,319	214
Oct 1, 2023 – Oct 31, 2023								
Blue Heron Bay	2,246	-2	2,148	-2	0	754	0	0
Independence Lake Co...	3,223	13	2,966	12	10	8,022	126	9
Meri Lou Murray Recre...	1,735	5	1,554	0	6	5,211	238	15
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,225	4	1,110	4	4	2,310	23	9
Rolling Hills County Park	23,206	-9	21,929	-5	6	36,951	1,046	31
Washtenaw County Par...	6,389	30	5,263	23	11	7,061	307	24

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,318	1,320	987

Top Post - Vehicle Passes

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
21	38	31

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
3,228	3,276	2,383

Top Post - Volunteer post

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
33	91	110



Digital Report - November 2023

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

Independence Lake Post



f Independence Lake Co...
Wed 11/8/2023 7:00 pm EST

Consider taking time for yourself before the stress of the Holiday Season Starts! Drop into yoga on Sunday fro...



Impressions	303
Reach	295
Engagements	6

Rolling Hills Post



f Rolling Hills County Park
Fri 11/3/2023 10:46 am EDT

Ford Motor Company employees did an AMAZING job helping clear invasive plants and improving our landscape....



Impressions	839
Reach	839
Engagements	32



Digital Report - November 2023

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

Total Page Visits	This Month	Last Month	. Last Year
	10,256	21,894	20,418

Title	URL		Page views % of total	Visits % of total
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/497/Meri-Lou-Murray-Recreation-Center		4,927 25.1%	3,864 37.7%
Parks & Recreation Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation		1,009 5.1%	805 7.8%
Building Schedules & Holiday Hours Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/2553/Building-Schedules-Holiday-Hours		519 2.6%	459 4.5%
Fitness Classes Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/500/Fitness-Classes		466 2.4%	382 3.7%
Rolling Hills Water Park Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/638/Rolling-Hills-Water-Park		464 2.4%	390 3.8%

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC 53% open rate

Newsletter via MailChimp		
Sent to	Opened	Clicks
15,828	8,388	748

Newsletter non MailChimp		
Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,203	N/A	

Photography

Photo Ambassador
Highlights



Red Tail Hawk and Mallard
Captured by Elena Cacchillo



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: December 12, 2023
RE: Project and Activities Update – November 2023

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Approximately 40 people came to the Owl Prowl night hike on November 3. Although no owls were spotted hikers enjoyed hot cocoa, s'mores, and campfires upon their return.
- Maintenance staff installed a tribute bench overlooking the lake near the Little Free Library.
- Maintenance staff continue fall clean up and facility winterization.
- Staff are working closely with the Consultant to finalize the Facility Condition Assessment Reports for both the Beach Center and Maintenance Building. Schematic designs are also being completed that highlight the improvements needed to continually serve our visitors with excellence.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- In partnership with the County Clerk's Office, staff began collecting hygiene supplies for "Blessing Bags" that will be distributed to Delonis Center patrons.
- The facility has begun collecting food to be distributed to Food Gatherers. Members have already filled two barrels; collection will continue through the end of the year.
- The popular new "Hussle Flow" drop-in class has been extended through the end of the year.

Rolling Hills Park

- PlotGnar Promotions hosted Cyclocross CX-Max through several areas of the park, with over 100 participant racing through a challenging course.
- MOB Disc Golf hosted a Disc Golf Tournament on the OG course on November 19.
- Staff are working with consultants from Stantec for pump and electrical modifications in the Lazy River mechanical room to reduce future potential equipment damage from pump room flooding.
- Phase III work at the Concessions area for adding shade canopies and rental pavilions received approval from the Parks Commission. Staff is currently with Vendor on selecting colors so materials can be procured in a timely manner. Staff met with Vendor on site to review site conditions and overall layout.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff continues to work closely with the architect and contractor to ensure that facility requirements are met in a timely manner and within budget. Nearly all permits have been approved and we have received a Certificate of Occupancy. Remaining punchlist items are being addressed by the Contractor. Staff is working with the Contractor on improving the water quality.

- Consultants from The Collaborative have submitted Design Development plans for the Farmhouse Renovation project. Staff have conducted their review of the plans from a QA/QC perspective along with investigating methods of reducing costs. Finish selections are in progress as well as developing plans for permitting agencies.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Segment DAA3 (Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark) – The contractor has completed a substantial portion of the site restoration and railing installation. The project is on seasonal shutdown but is anticipated to be completed next year.
- Segment CS2 (Wylie Road to Parker Road, in Lima Twp) – Concrete paving is complete for most of the project and work has begun to construct a short bridge over Mill Creek.
- Segment C1 – The final gap of the trail between Timbertown and Werkner Road was paved in late November. The work has not been completed on the main portion of the trail because of a culvert replacement project under M-52 that was recently installed in partnership with MDOT and the Water Resources Commissioner's Office.
- Segment CS3 (N. Territorial to Boyce Rd in Lyndon Twp) – Grading, aggregate base installation and concrete paving is underway. Work will be completed next year.
- Segment DAA7- Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail:
 - o Engineering team has resubmitted plans to Amtrak and is addressing comments.
 - o In partnership with the City of Ann Arbor, a contractor is being selected for construction of a segment of trail from Barton Dam, east, across the Barton Nature Area. Work is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages for the following trail segments:
 - o Delhi Metropark to Wagner Road (Segment DAA4) – Permit review at Amtrak in process.
 - o Dexter-Chelsea (Segment CD3) Mill Creek Park in Dexter.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- Hunters and volunteers with the Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors harvested thirteen deer from Leonard Preserve during the state's archery and firearm season.
- Invasive species removal occurred at Draper-Houston, Northfield Woods, Whitmore Lake, and Highland preserves and Rolling Hills County Park.
- Fencing has been installed along Goodrich Preserve' boundaries. A new trail will connect the preserve to the University of Michigan's Horner Woods, Tom A. Freeman Preserve, and the City of Ann Arbor's Marshall Nature Area to produce 4 miles of rustic trail.

Interpretive and Volunteer Programming

- 226 patrons attended nature programs.
- In November, 70 volunteers engaged in 164 hours of volunteer activity. The primary activity focus was on stewardship at County Farm Park, Independence Lake Park, and across multiple preserves. Thirty students graduated from the Conservation Stewards Program, a partnership between various agencies in the local conservation community.

Other

- Staff continues to promote the Parks Commission's 50th anniversary.
- The master planning team held the first stakeholder meetings and focus groups. Staff is currently reviewing questions for the Community Needs Assessment.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

November 2023 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 903.37	\$ 4,491.11	\$ 13,216.19	\$ 18,610.67
Recreation Center	20,449.50	6,231.56	10,162.20	36,843.26
Park Maintenance	1,106.01	7,449.83	7,289.89	15,845.73
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,381.64	4,630.71	185,625.87	191,638.22
Independence Lake	1,393.50	2,138.08	10,928.93	14,460.51
Rolling Hills	4,564.30	22,164.07	29,420.66	56,149.03
Parker Mill	169.16	-	-	169.16
Sharon Mills	147.46	-	17.79	165.25
Staebler Farm	1,856.56	5,328.81	11,126.75	18,312.12
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	14,007.47	14,007.47
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 31,971.50	\$ 52,434.17	\$ 281,795.75	\$ 366,201.42
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 1,429,762.40	 1,429,762.40
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,429,762.40	\$ 1,429,762.40
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,760.00	\$ 43,760.00
Preserve Management	-	3,314.65	-	\$ 3,314.65
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,253.00	\$ 77,253.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,314.65	\$ 121,013.00	\$ 124,327.65
 TOTAL	\$ 31,971.50	\$ 55,748.82	\$ 1,832,571.15	\$ 1,920,291.47

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of.....

\$ 1,920,291.47

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	14,586,961	92%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	9,130,705	9,629,053	105%	498,348
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	4,584,657	126%	949,657
Interest Earnings	150,000	578,591	386%	428,591
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>545,315</u>	<u>321,916</u>	59%	<u>(223,400)</u>
Total Revenue	13,461,020	15,114,217	112%	1,653,197
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,960,950)	(6,826,930)	98%	134,020
Supplies & Other Services	(3,138,415)	(2,484,003)	79%	654,412
Internal Service Charges	(1,068,148)	(1,020,848)	96%	47,300
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(2,120,972)	68%	979,028
Contingency	(326,500)	(131,078)	40%	195,422
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(844,278)</u>	<u>(511,491)</u>	61%	<u>332,787</u>
Capital Subtotal	(4,270,778)	(2,763,541)	65%	1,507,237
Transfers Out	1,288,196	(364,113)		
Total Expense	<u>(14,150,095)</u>	<u>(13,459,436)</u>	95%	2,342,968
Surplus/(Deficit)	(689,075)	1,654,781		
Operating Reserve	(9,130,705)	(9,130,705)		
2023 Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(1,726,339)</u>	<u>(574,207)</u>		
	(10,857,044)	(9,704,912)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>12,171,547</u>	<u>16,241,742</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	6,865,636	92%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	4,861,064	5,121,356	105%	260,292
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	303,844	608%	253,844
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,350</u>	87%	<u>(650)</u>
Total Revenue	4,916,064	5,429,550	110%	513,486
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(661,045)	(686,105)	104%	(25,060)
Supplies & Other Services	(349,738)	(187,035)	53%	162,703
Internal Service Charges	(25,721)	(68,817)	268%	(43,096)
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,560,919)	61%	989,081
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(18,475)</u>	370%	<u>(13,475)</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,579,395)	62%	975,606
Total Expense	<u>(3,591,504)</u>	<u>(2,521,352)</u>	70%	1,070,152
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,324,560	2,908,198		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>8,190,196</u>	<u>9,773,834</u>		

ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
OCTOBER

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,483	1,129	2,138	2,148	1,961	\$ 40,650	\$ 33,870	\$ 64,140	\$ 64,440	\$ 58,830
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	93	207	284	290	6,750	4,185	9,315	12,780	13,050
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,618	3,476	9,163	12,984	11,896	75,708	20,856	54,978	77,902	71,377
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,818	1,488	8,598	21,165	20,735	188,180	14,880	85,980	211,646	207,353
SENIOR (DAILY)	891	186	527	709	701	2,673	558	1,581	2,127	2,103
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	620	27	261	520	564	3,720	162	1,566	3,120	3,384
BUSES (DAILY)	132	-	4	80	97	3,960	-	120	2,400	2,910
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	300	300
MINI BUS	44	1	4	30	62	660	15	60	450	930
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,782</u>	<u>6,420</u>	<u>20,907</u>	<u>37,921</u>	<u>36,168</u>	<u>\$ 322,301</u>	<u>\$ 74,626</u>	<u>\$ 217,765</u>	<u>\$ 375,165</u>	<u>\$ 360,237</u>

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	10.61%	7.61%	8.83%	11.68%	12.88%
DAILY	59.00%	29.26%	47.76%	61.30%	62.84%

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,297</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>106,244</u>	<u>99,604</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,714</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>	<u>\$ 1,209,698</u>	<u>\$ 1,171,941</u>
	123,297	4	38,778	106,244	99,604	\$ 1,039,714	\$ 48	\$ 402,006	\$ 1,209,698	\$ 1,171,941

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	2,913	159	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485	\$ 78,648	\$ 98,497
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	726	-	1,453	-	-	2,731	-	4,952	-	-
RIVERWALK	-	-	-	3,514	3,565	-	-	-	11,996	11,800
DISC GOLF	2,262	2,682	2,901	3,016	1,323	8,818	5,364	5,802	6,032	5,682
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,429</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>1,756</u>	<u>2,142</u>	<u>2,079</u>	<u>32,220</u>	<u>8,852</u>	<u>19,756</u>	<u>18,782</u>	<u>20,601</u>
	<u>8,358</u>	<u>3,531</u>	<u>7,869</u>	<u>11,585</u>	<u>7,126</u>	<u>\$ 96,174</u>	<u>\$ 14,216</u>	<u>\$ 77,995</u>	<u>\$ 115,457</u>	<u>\$ 136,580</u>

**ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
OCTOBER**

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	26	2	44	47	38	\$ 2,543	\$ 40	\$ 4,505	\$ 4,805	\$ 3,910
WEEKENDS	156	16	150	181	166	17,262	1,335	19,650	23,600	21,160
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	592	3	15,200	550	550	1,700	7,340
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	14	15	-	-	950	1,300	1,550
	<u>5,504</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>834</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>\$ 36,245</u>	<u>\$ 1,925</u>	<u>\$ 25,655</u>	<u>\$ 31,405</u>	<u>\$ 33,960</u>
TOBOGGANS	229	-	760	535	202	\$ 687	\$ -	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,020
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	177	-	936	512	258	531	-	2,808	2,560	2,580
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	-
	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 5,245</u>	<u>\$ 4,600</u>
LOCKERS	23,002	-	5,420	24,894	21,664	\$ 5,751	\$ -	\$ 1,355	\$ 6,224	\$ 5,416
FOOD CONCESSIONS	113,264	-	42,038	100,383	96,577	226,386	-	80,216	244,395	286,211
MISCELLANEOUS	596	-	299	1,241	1,419	3,198	-	1,738	14,068	20,271
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	39	3	1	4	23	411	428	65	372	2,366
	<u>136,901</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>126,522</u>	<u>119,683</u>	<u>\$ 235,745</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ 83,374</u>	<u>\$ 265,058</u>	<u>\$ 314,264</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	309,248	10,168	117,403	284,155	263,263	\$ 1,731,397	\$ 91,243	\$ 811,883	\$ 2,002,029	\$ 2,021,582

**RECREATION CENTER
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
NOVEMBER**

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	961	375	399	741	888	\$ 200,211	\$ 69,104	\$ 82,059	\$ 166,684	\$ 200,557
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	19	5	6	12	8	5,875	2,060	1,784	265	2,703
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,350	471	488	765	989	222,092	76,432	81,597	142,227	183,131
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	4	3	-	6	7	1,050	788	-	1,606	1,966
FAMILY RESIDENT	276	136	66	186	225	104,550	36,222	36,376	69,700	94,212
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	-	1	1,480	735	767	-	882
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	16	9	4	1	6	1,021	307	192	75	450
SENIORS OVER 80	406	139	194	266	226	24,090	7,965	12,201	17,685	15,000
PERSONAL TRAINERS	18	1	4	3	4	5,960	303	1,075	1,325	1,925
MILITARY PASS	3	3	3	14	22	360	366	576	2,836	4,668
30-DAY PASS	754	447	750	487	554	32,600	19,218	34,852	27,481	32,454
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	-	-	9,920	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	36	8	6	5	-	36	8	6	5
SUB-TOTAL	3,935	1,626	1,923	2,487	2,935	\$ 609,210	\$ 213,536	\$ 251,488	\$ 429,889	\$ 537,953
PASS FACILITY USE	158,468	52,235	96,521	127,257	129,753					
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	0.96%	0.91%	0.73%	1.05%	0.76%					

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	8,187	2,552	377	2,871	4,663	\$ 65,496	\$ 20,416	\$ 3,397	\$ 27,718	\$ 46,630
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	900	212	94	279	426	8,100	1,908	939	3,202	5,112
S/Y/D RESIDENT	7,476	2,122	448	2,356	4,504	44,856	12,732	3,081	21,050	35,223
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	328	105	31	934	181	2,296	735	218	6,681	1,517
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	205	46	1	61	746	1,256	264	8	366	4,392
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	553	129	-	167	1,110	3,041	756	-	810	5,915
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	16	3	-	121	-	35	14	-	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	1	100	3,606	450	245	10	600
SUB-TOTAL	17,665	5,244	952	6,790	11,730	\$ 128,686	\$ 37,275	\$ 7,888	\$ 59,837	\$ 99,389
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	7.04%	6.19%	13.14%	19.65%	5.22%					

**RECREATION CENTER
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
NOVEMBER**

OTHER REVENUE										
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	3,299	23	13	2,763	143	\$ 89,077	\$ 630	\$ 360	\$ 74,590	\$ 79,491
RECREATION PROGRAMS	35,770	12,489	26,932	23,369	26,194	185,508	30,155	64,951	149,671	184,913
FACILITY RENTALS	252	106	100	-	-	6,050	2,554	2,400	-	-
POOL/STUDIO/ PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	-	96	103	-	135	10,886	2,682	3,225	85	4,066
LOCKERS	29,267	9,068	4,520	9,152	11,252	7,317	2,267	1,130	2,288	2,813
VENDING	-	-	-	15	-	1,425	1,208	-	85	-
SUB-TOTAL	68,588	21,783	31,668	35,299	37,724	\$ 300,264	\$ 39,497	\$ 72,066	\$ 226,719	\$ 271,283
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	248,656	80,888	131,065	171,833	182,142	\$ 1,038,160	\$ 290,307	\$ 331,441	\$ 716,445	\$ 908,624

PIERCE LAKE GOLF COURSE
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
NOVEMBER

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WEEKDAYS										
REGULAR - 9	943	708	780	425	410	\$ 7,483	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,316	\$ 10,845	\$ 10,271
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	525	671	666	499	527	7,532	11,325	11,151	10,820	10,966
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	3,397	4,344	65,931	47,585	58,463	67,643	78,567
REGULAR - 18	2,151	3,995	3,434	9,404	10,559	64,394	120,135	117,386	195,600	211,190
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,379	3,481	4,645	4,477	4,071	88,380	83,348	109,134	99,922	110,191
TWI-LIGHT	1,948	2,140	1,512	928	862	32,318	42,495	29,025	19,388	19,463
WEEKENDS										
REGULAR - 9	250	261	244	347	331	5,486	6,713	6,159	10,713	9,966
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	43	54	624	722	228	875	1,237
REGULAR - 18	3,647	3,621	5,349	3,120	3,030	121,243	129,314	194,296	122,279	119,499
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	953	583	7,514	7,288	14,532	28,375	21,451
TWI-LIGHT	1,295	1,390	819	25	455	29,665	35,440	20,666	11,260	13,255
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	13	13	928	684	665	299	299
MEMBERSHIPS										
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	426	523	679	1,462	2,126	9,500	14,776	24,898	46,355	47,083
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	765	1,218	1,518	204	594	9,400	10,257	14,921	13,225	18,725
WEEKEND PACKAGE	139	-	183	15	25	750	-	800	1,650	1,650
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	355	320	284	70	58	5,525	3,850	4,575	8,225	5,450
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKEND)	<u>1,176</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>35,911</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>28,810</u>	<u>47,512</u>	<u>58,064</u>
	22,489	21,517	24,883	26,660	29,627	\$ 492,585	\$ 524,628	\$ 645,025	\$ 694,985	\$ 737,326

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CARTS	17,554	16,932	20,384	18,833	19,408	\$ 118,507	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,451	\$ 105,067	\$ 109,991
RENTALS	<u>66</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>280</u>
	17,620	16,960	20,423	18,850	19,436	\$ 119,167	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,841	\$ 105,237	\$ 110,271
FOOD & BEVERAGE	45,069	30,492	49,032	48,716	52,638	\$ 120,885	\$ 82,721	\$ 136,254	\$ 142,603	\$ 167,115
PRO SHOP	3,370	2,796	3,531	3,355	3,652	37,882	34,008	45,316	47,906	51,659
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	-	3,843	(71,308)	(89,581)	(135,486)	-	(11,516)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	48,439	33,288	52,563	52,071	56,290	\$ 88,276	\$ 28,447	\$ 47,143	\$ 190,509	\$ 207,258
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVEN	88,548	71,765	97,869	97,581	105,353	\$ 700,028	\$ 669,918	\$ 836,009	\$ 990,731	\$ 1,054,855

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
NOVEMBER**

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	963	1,016	1,310	1,114	984	\$ 27,930	\$ 30,480	\$ 39,300	\$ 33,420	\$ 29,534
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	173	184	339	359	325	7,245	8,280	15,255	16,155	14,625
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,619	5,234	6,724	5,671	6,242	33,714	31,404	40,344	34,026	37,452
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,892	4,493	6,817	6,235	6,664	48,920	44,930	68,170	62,350	66,640
SENIOR (DAILY)	575	508	764	637	698	1,725	1,524	2,292	1,911	2,094
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	321	257	400	472	560	1,926	1,542	2,400	2,832	3,360
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	18	35	570	-	240	540	1,050
ANNUAL BUS	8	-	-	1	1	150	-	-	150	150
MINI BUS	20	3	10	35	15	300	45	150	525	225
ANNUAL MINI BUS	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>810</u>
	12,605	11,698	16,376	14,545	15,535	\$ 123,005	\$ 118,430	\$ 168,451	\$ 152,134	\$ 155,940
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:										
ANNUAL	15.2%	15.3%	20.6%	24.4%	24.8%					
DAILY	45.7%	45.3%	49.1%	51.5%	51.0%					

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	-	125	83	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,530	\$ 6,473
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>12,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,723</u>	<u>15,246</u>	<u>21,237</u>	<u>47,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,372</u>	<u>67,236</u>	<u>75,991</u>
	12,857	-	6,723	15,371	21,320	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 27,372	\$ 72,766	\$ 82,464

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS	4	-	25	48	75	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 925	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,355
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>270</u>
	7	-	26	48	77	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ 1,105	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,625
LOCKERS	143	-	-	172	41	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ 10
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,361	15,702	13,792	21,434	125	15,755	37,397	46,845
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>28</u>
	10,411	120	7,392	15,908	13,847	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838	\$ 37,495	\$ 46,883

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
NOVEMBER**

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	2,149	94	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910	\$ 58,036	\$ 60,906
DISC GOLF	273	4,615	5,269	3,010	2,158	546	9,230	10,538	6,020	7,212
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>357</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>786</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>6,512</u>	<u>4,039</u>	<u>9,412</u>	<u>8,257</u>	<u>9,173</u>
	2,120	4,927	8,015	5,889	2,509	\$ 47,275	\$ 13,419	\$ 72,860	\$ 72,313	\$ 77,291
FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	73	8	21	39	26	\$ 4,725	\$ 880	\$ 2,020	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,150
WEEKENDS	<u>85</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>10,025</u>	<u>3,950</u>	<u>10,340</u>	<u>11,060</u>	<u>12,935</u>
	158	41	118	140	136	\$ 14,750	\$ 4,830	\$ 12,360	\$ 15,560	\$ 16,085
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	113	96	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680	\$ 565	\$ 480
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	25	33	640	-	780	500	660
PADDLE BOATS-1 HOUR	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	434
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	449	-	589	346	289	3,143	-	4,123	2,422	2,023
SINGLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	160
DOUBLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
	625	-	764	484	469	\$ 4,503	\$ -	\$ 5,583	\$ 3,487	\$ 4,117
FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	5,181	4,704	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910	\$ 10,704	\$ 14,983
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>33</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>
	7,005	5,308	6,551	5,199	4,721	\$ 12,006	\$ 10,850	\$ 15,012	\$ 10,731	\$ 15,008
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,788	22,094	45,965	57,584	58,614	\$ 272,993	\$ 147,705	\$ 318,580	\$ 367,466	\$ 403,413



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 12, 2023
Re: MLM Recreation Center Natatorium: Construction Documents & Oversight

Background

In 2017, a structural inspection was completed for the exterior southern glass block wall in the pool facility at the MLM Recreation Center after staff noticed cracks and leaks developing in some of the glass blocks. Subsequent repairs were made to the wall with the understanding that more extensive repair would be required in the future. In June 2020, a feasibility study was completed by IDS which included community engagement and proposed facility renovations. At the time, discussions focused on replacing the glass block wall when other renovations to the building were done. Due to the financial impact of the pandemic and subsequent closures for the MLM Recreation Center, renovations have not started on the building.

Discussion

Recently, further deterioration of the glass block wall has been noted, increasing the urgency for repairs. To address the concerns, staff engaged JFR Architects to complete an analysis and cost estimates for three scenarios to address the repairs. All three of the options include replacing the glass blocks with high efficiency windows that will be insulated and color tinted for sun control benefits. It was decided to move forward with Option 3, which included straightening out the wall completely and extending the exterior wall out into the existing patio area, adding approximately 950 square feet to the pool deck. This would create space for 2 additional family changing rooms with toilets, sinks, and showers for improved accessibility to the pool, a needed renovation that was noted during the 2020 feasibility study and community engagement process.

In August 2023, the Parks Commission approved a grant application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) in the amount of \$900,000. At that time, the grant was for 69% of the total projected costs of \$1,300,000. Since the grant submittal, additional repairs have been noted that should coincide with natatorium renovations to minimize future patron disruption. These include replacement of the north windows, refinishing ceiling and wood beams, replacement of fire protection piping and sprinkler ductwork, upgraded HVAC unit and duct work, and new underwater pool lights. The additional repair work is estimated to cost \$625,000 and will be bid as add alternates.

Table 1: Construction Cost Estimate

Glass block wall repair & family changing room	\$1,300,000
Additional natatorium repairs	\$625,000
Total construction cost	\$1,925,000
<i>Total cost after potential grant award of \$900,000 (Anticipating response: January 2024)</i>	<i>\$1,025,000</i>

To complete a Request for Proposal and receive bids for the project, a full set of construction documents will be needed. This work will be completed by JFR Architects and their costs include:

Table 2: Architectural and Engineering Services Costs

Architectural and Engineering for Glass Block Wall and family locker room addition	\$71,520
Additional architectural and engineering work for alternate items	\$60,366
Construction observation and bidding	\$21,096
Total JFR Architects contract award	\$152,982

Recommendation

Based on the needed repairs, pool deck and changing room enhancement, and potential grant opportunity, I recommend the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the expenditure in the amount of \$152,982 with JFR Architects to complete the set of construction documents for renovations to the MLM Recreation Center Natatorium as outlined in the memo.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 12, 2023
Re: Recommendation for Round 23 NATAC Priorities

At their October 2023 meeting, the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) evaluated all property nominations received in 2023 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” for protection. This evaluation includes site visits to each of the properties and completion of the field review worksheets.

Tier One Priority: Move forward with appraisals or negotiations

Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
Friendlander	40	Dexter Township	Conservation Easement	Dexter Township
MELC	162	Superior Township	Conservation Easement	Greenbelt
Haist *	50	Freedom	Conservation Easement	Legacy Land Conservancy
Maier *	30	Freedom	Conservation Easement	Legacy Land Conservancy

* Property is also a priority for ALPAC. Funds will be split between 2 budgets.

Tier Two Priority

Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
Thomson	60	Salem	Conservation Easement	Legacy Land Conservancy
Heydon	30	Webster	Conservation Easement	Webster

Recommend to not move forward/do not participate

Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
Stremich	15	Salem	Conservation Easement	Greenbelt
Burnham Langmore	53	Dexter Township	Conservation Easement	Dexter Township

The Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee presents the above recommendation for your consideration. The Committee is available to address any questions you may have concerning the recommendation and members can be available to attend a future Commission meeting.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 12, 2023
Re: Recommendation for Round 23 ALPAC Priorities

Background

At their November 2023 meeting, the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC) evaluated all property nominations received in 2022 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” for protection. This evaluation uses an objective numeric scoring system that was adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and is intended to produce similar scores to models used at the State and Federal Level.

Highest Priority for ALPAC: In order of score, proceed with negotiations as funds available for acquisition, and seek matching funding opportunities as indicated below. ALPAC will make further recommendations once partnerships / grants are determined.

Property Name	Acres	Township	Grant / Partnership	Score
Lovell	79	Lima		70
Pittsfield Realty	82	Saline	MDARD Grant	68
Superior Township	301	Superior		65

Highest Priority partnerships: Partners have requested ALPAC’s partnership on several nominations, but no specific dollar amount has been requested to date. These partnership requests will be reviewed as they are received and as funds are available.

Property Name	Acres	Township	Lead Organization	Score
Weidmayer Dairy	200	Freedom	Legacy Land Conservancy	73
Ottoman	100	Dexter Twp	Dexter Twp	69
Haist *	50	Lima	Legacy Land Conservancy	58
Ehnis	64	Northfield	Greenbelt	56
Maier *	30	Lima	Legacy Land Conservancy	54
Roome Trust	77	Augusta	Augusta Township	50

**Property is also a priority for NATAC. Likely split contribution.*

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee presents the above recommendation for your consideration. The Committee is available to address any questions you may have concerning the recommendation and members can be available to attend a future Commission meeting.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 12, 2023
Re: Construction Cost Sharing Agreement – City of Ann Arbor – Border to Border Trail Segment DAA7

Background

WCPARC and the City of Ann Arbor have been collaborating on the planning, design, and construction of a portion of the Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail) that connects the north end of Bandemer Park to the parking lot at Barton Dam on the city's northwest side, also known as B2B Trail Segment DAA7. In late 2021, the Commission and the City executed an agreement that outlined the terms of collaboration on the engineering and construction of the project. The agreement indicated that the Commission will hold the engineering contracts and the City will hold the contract(s) for construction and eventually be the owner of the trail and associated infrastructure. Additionally, the agreement contemplated future cost sharing agreements to be drafted and executed by the parties to detail construction expenses once the final designs are established.

Staff from the two organizations have been working diligently alongside their consultants, Bergmann Associates and OHM Advisors to design and seek permit approvals for the project. Staff was anticipating bidding the complete project through the City's process over the winter of 2023/24; however, during the summer of 2023 an adjacent project on Barton Dam was brought to the attention of the project team. The Barton Dam project is a mandatory project to ensure the dam's long-term integrity. Unfortunately, the timing and work zone for the dam project and the trail project overlap and substantial conflict was anticipated. Staff collaborated and identified a mutually beneficial solution: to split the trail project into two construction phases.

Phase 1: Start at the Barton Dam parking lot and traverse 0.6 miles east across Barton Nature Area. This is the subject of the attached cost sharing agreement.

Phase 2: The tunnel under the MDOT/Amtrak railroad and associated trail to connect to the existing B2B Trail in Bandemer Park and Phase 1, above. This portion of the project is nearly through Amtrak's engineering review process and will be the subject of a future cost sharing agreement.

Discussion

The City solicited bids for Phase 1 of the project this fall. Three bids were received and evaluated per the City's *Best Value Selection Process*, which determined that Erie Construction be recommended to receive a contract for the work (see below). The City's Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) recommended approval of the contract and cost sharing to City Council at their November meeting and City Council is expected to take action on the contract award and cost sharing agreement at their December 18, 2023 meeting.

Construction Proposal Evaluation Results

Project Name:	Barton Nature Area Border to Border Trail
RPF No.	23-54
Date:	October 25, 2023

	Mead Bros. Excavating, Inc.	Gibraltar Construction Company	Erie Construction, LLC
Part A - Qualifications, Experience, & Accountability - 20 pts	10	17.5	20
Part B - Workplace Safety - 20 pts	10	20	20
Part C - Workforce Development - 20 pts	7	6	20
Part D - Social Equity & Sustainability - 20 pts	12	11	13
Part E - Schedule of Pricing/Cost - 20 pts	20.0	13.0	19.7
TOTAL SCORE:	59.0	67.5	92.7

The recommended bid from Erie Construction is \$1,287,382. The agreement states that the City will pay for 1/3 of the construction cost and that WCPARC will pay for 2/3 of the construction costs. WCPARC has secured a commitment from the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) to pay for 1/2 of WCPARC's share of the project – ultimately meaning that each of the three organizations will pay for 1/3 of the project (approximately \$429,127 each).

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the execution of the attached cost sharing agreement with the City of Ann Arbor for B2B Trail Segment DAA7 contingent upon final acceptance by legal counsel and the City of Ann Arbor.

Attachments.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
WASHTENAW COUNTY, BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISISON, AND THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES
AND COST ALLOCATION FOR THE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE
BANDEMER-BARTON TRAIL AND UNDERPASS PROJECT

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2023, by and between the City of Ann Arbor, a Michigan municipal corporation with its principal offices at 301 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 (the “City”), and Washtenaw County, a Michigan municipal corporation with its principal offices at 220 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 (the “County”), by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, existing pursuant to Public Act 261 of 1965 (“WCPARC”), for the purpose of establishing the rights and obligations of the parties relative to the Trail Construction Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project (the “Trail Construction Phase”). Relevant details and scope of construction work for the Trail Construction Phase are set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

- A. Whereas, the County, Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative, and the City previously signed a Letter of Intent dated May 2, 2018 (“LOI”) to collaborate on an update to the Bandemer-Barton Pedestrian Tunnel 2005 Feasibility Study, which update was completed in 2020 (Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Study dated November 13, 2020 prepared by Bergmann and OHM Advisors) and sets forth preferred design options for use in the Design Phase for the project;
- B. Whereas, in late 2021 the County and City entered into a Cost Sharing Agreement for the Design Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project;
- C. Whereas, in early 2023 the County and City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) for the purposes of setting forth their mutual objectives, understandings regarding and desire to cooperate to advance the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project;
- D. Whereas, the MOU contemplates the parties entering into other agreements for each phase of the Project as necessary;
- E. Whereas, the County and City expressed interest in working cooperatively to complete the Trail Construction Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project and share the costs thereof;
- F. Whereas, in consultation with the County and WCPARC, the City has solicited, received and evaluated proposals for the construction of the Trail Construction Phase, and having shared and discussed the proposals with the County and WCPARC, the parties agree the City should award a contract for the Trail Construction Phase work to Erie Construction, LLC (the “Contractor”), which submitted the best value proposal in the amount of \$1,287,382.00;

- G. Whereas, the City will enter into a construction contract with the Contractor and administer the completion of the Trail Construction Phase work in accordance with this Agreement and its exhibits and attachments;
- H. Whereas, the County and City will each be responsible for funding and paying for a portion of the Trail Construction Phase work as established in the Contractor's cost proposal contained in Exhibit A (County 66.66% / City 33.34%); and
- I. Whereas, the County and City have reached an understanding regarding the performance of and payment for the Trail Construction Phase work and desire to enter into this Agreement to memorialize that understanding.

Therefore, in consideration of the promises and mutual undertakings of the parties and in conformity with applicable law, County and City agree:

1. The County and the City shall undertake and complete the Trail Construction Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Exhibit A to this Agreement refers to and incorporates by reference the Trail Construction Phase design and construction proposal titled "RFP No. 23-54 Barton Nature Area Border to Border Trail" which details the complete scope of the construction work for the Trail Construction Phase. As set forth in the cost proposal in Exhibit A, the total project cost estimate is \$1,287,382.00, and the of County's estimated share of the Trail Construction Phase cost is \$858,168.84 and City's estimated share is \$429,213.16 provided these amounts may change as provided elsewhere in this Agreement.
2. The City will enter into a construction contract with the Contractor for the Trail Construction Phase. The City will administer the construction contract and related work necessary for the completion of the Trail Construction Phase. In its contract with the Contractor, the City must require that the Contractor indemnify the City and County for any claims or lawsuits by third parties arising from the Contractor's work, and must require the Contractor to cover the City and County as additional insureds on its general liability insurance policy. The construction contract between the City and Contractor must also recognize the County as a third party beneficiary of the contract.
3. The County is responsible for funding its identified 66.66% share of the Trail Construction Phase costs.
4. For payment of the Trail Construction Phase costs, the City will contract directly with the Contractor and pay to the Contractor the complete cost of the work, including the County's portion of these costs. The County will reimburse the City for the County's share of amounts paid by the City.
5. As the City pays the Contractor for services and work completed and incurs costs on the Trail Construction Phase, the City will invoice the County no more frequently than on a monthly basis. The County shall reimburse the City for the County's portion of incurred costs within 30 days of receipt of an invoice from the City.

6. Notwithstanding the County's funding of its share of the Trail Construction Phase, the parties agree the City may consult with the County regarding the project and its management, but that responsibility for management of the Trail Construction Phase, including all aspects of the construction contract with the Contractor, rests with the City.

7. The parties understand and agree that actual Trail Construction Phase costs may differ from the Contractor's cost proposal. However, the parties agree the County is responsible for 66.66% and the City is responsible for 33.34% of the Trail Construction Phase costs, and those percentages cannot be changed except by Amendment to this Agreement. The County's obligation to fund its share of the Trail Construction Phase includes the obligation to fund change orders, authorized in writing prior to the work being performed after consultation with the County and/or WCPARC, for its share of the Trail Construction Phase. The parties agree that any change order that affects shares of the Trail Construction Phase of both parties will be paid in proportion to those percentages set forth herein and agreed to by the County and the City, including both increases and decreases in Trail Construction Phase costs.

8. In the event any claims are brought by the Contractor, or a subcontractor, vendor or supplier for the Trail Construction Phase work and arising therefrom against the City and/or County or WCPARC, costs incurred by the City in defending or resolving such claims shall be considered Trail Construction Phase costs and will be funded in the same manner and proportion as the work to which the claims pertain. Any change order that results from a claim shall be funded as provided in Paragraph 7.

9. Each person signing this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she has authority to sign this Agreement on behalf of the County or City, respectively.

WASHTENAW COUNTY,
a Michigan municipal corporation,

CITY OF ANN ARBOR,
a Michigan municipal corporation

By Washtenaw County Parks
and Recreation Commission,

By: _____
Christopher Taylor, Mayor

By: _____
Coy Vaughn, Director

By: _____
Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Approved as to form:

Approved as to substance:

Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel

Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

Attested to:

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County
Clerk/Register

Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area
Administrator

Approved as to form:

Atleen Kaur, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Attached as Exhibit A is the proposal for construction prepared and submitted by Erie Construction, LLC detailing the scope of the construction work for the Trail Construction Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail and Underpass Project per City RFP 23-54:

E. Schedule of Pricing/Cost – 20 Points

Company: Erie Construction LLC

Unit Price Bid

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Estimated Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
1027051	Audio-Visual Filming	LSUM	1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
1027051	Certified Payroll Compliance and Reporting	LSUM	1	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
1100001	Mobilization, Max	LSUM	1	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00
2010001	Clearing	Acre	1	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
2020002	Tree, Rem, 19 inch to 36 inch	Ea	25	\$ 300.00	\$ 7,500.00
2020003	Tree, Rem, 37 inch or Larger	Ea	10	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000.00
2020004	Tree, Rem, 6 inch to 18 inch	Ea	120	\$ 55.00	\$ 6,600.00
2030001	Culv, Rem, Less than 24 inch	Ea	10	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,500.00
2040026	Fence, Rem	Ft	78	\$ 7.00	\$ 546.00
2050040	Subgrade Undercutting, Type I	Cyd	200	\$ 37.00	\$ 7,400.00
2050041	Subgrade Undercutting, Type II	Cyd	200	\$ 55.00	\$ 11,000.00
2050043	Subgrade Undercutting, Type IV	Cyd	200	\$ 62.00	\$ 12,400.00
2057001	Infiltration Trench, Det A	Ft	171	\$ 35.00	\$ 5,985.00
2080020	Erosion Control, Inlet Protection, Fabric Drop	Ea	5	\$ 140.00	\$ 700.00
2080036	Erosion Control, Silt Fence	Ft	6,247	\$ 2.00	\$ 12,494.00
2080042	Erosion Control, Turbidity Curtain, Deep	Ft	50	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,500.00
3027011	Aggregate Base, 10 inch, Modified	Syd	340	\$ 85.00	\$ 28,900.00
3080020	Maintenance Gravel	Ton	100	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,000.00

3067011	Aggregate Surface Cse, 6 inch, Modified	Syd	564	\$ 16.00	\$ 9,024.00
3080005	Geotextile, Separator	Syd	200	\$ 2.60	\$ 520.00
3082000	Geotextile, Separator, Non-Woven	Syd	200	\$ 2.40	\$ 480.00
3082002	Road Grade Biaxial Geogrid	Syd	200	\$ 7.70	\$ 1,540.00
4010047	Culv End Sect, Conc, 12 inch	Ea	12	\$ 615.00	\$ 7,380.00
4010573	Culv, C I E, Conc, 12 inch	Ft	169	\$ 85.00	\$ 14,365.00
4030006	Dr Structure Cover, Adj, Case 2	Ea	1	\$ 470.00	\$ 470.00
4030035	Dr Structure Cover, Type E	Ea	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4030210	Dr Structure, 48 inch dia	Ea	1	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
4040093	Underdrain Outlet, 6 inch	Ft	10	\$ 22.00	\$ 220.00
4040113	Underdrain, Outlet Ending, 6 inch	Ea	1	\$ 109.00	\$ 109.00
4047001	Underdrain, Infiltration Trench, 6 inch	Ft	192	\$ 11.00	\$ 2,112.00
6020207	Joint, Expansion, E2	Ft	20	\$ 26.00	\$ 520.00
6020208	Joint, Expansion, E3	Ft	30	\$ 26.00	\$ 780.00
7060092	Reinforcement, Steel, Epoxy Coated	Lb	50	\$ 12.00	\$ 600.00
7062001	Conc, Grade 3500	Cyd	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
8010003	Driveway, Reinf Conc, 8 inch	Syd	212	\$ 96.00	\$ 20,352.00
8027001	Valley Gutter, Conc, Modified	Ft	22	\$ 52.00	\$ 1,144.00
8030010	Detectable Warning Surface	Ft	10	\$ 62.00	\$ 620.00
8060020	Shared use Path, Conc	Syd	3,491	\$ 90.00	\$ 314,190.00
3067011	Aggregate Surface Cse, 6 inch, Modified	Syd	564	\$ 16.00	\$ 9,024.00
3080005	Geotextile, Separator	Syd	200	\$ 2.60	\$ 520.00

8067001	Shared use Path, Grading, Modified	Ft	3,135	\$ 66.00	\$ 206,910.00
8067011	Shared use Path, Aggregate, 8 inch, Modified	Syd	3,965	\$ 45.00	\$ 178,425.00
8080013	Fence, Chain Link, 72 inch	Ft	150	\$ 70.00	\$ 10,500.00
8087001	Fence, Wood, 48 inch	Ft	918	\$ 62.00	\$ 56,916.00
8100371	Post, Steel, 3 lb	Ft	30	\$ 80.00	\$ 2,400.00
8100405	Sign, Type IIIB	Sft	4	\$ 82.00	\$ 328.00
8110293	Pavt Mkg, Waterborne, for Rest Areas, Parks, and Lots, 4 inch, Blue	Ft	143	\$ 6.00	\$ 858.00
8120170	Minor Traf Devices	LSUM	1	\$ 88,500.00	\$ 88,500.00
8137001	Check Dam, Cobblestone	Ft	60	\$ 170.00	\$ 10,200.00
8137011	Riprap, Cobblestone	Syd	47	\$ 230.00	\$ 10,810.00
8150002	Watering and Cultivating, First Season, Min \$5,000.00	LSUM	1	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
8150003	Watering and Cultivating, 2nd Season, Min \$5,000.00	LSUM	1	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
8150805	Cercis canadensis, 2 inch clump, 3 Stem	Ea	10	\$ 660.00	\$ 6,600.00
8150983	Cornus florida, 2 inch	Ea	10	\$ 700.00	\$ 7,000.00
8151064	Cornus sericea, #5 cont.	Ea	30	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,000.00
8153044	Quercus bicolor, 2 inch	Ea	3	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,950.00
8154084	Viburnum lentago, #5 cont.	Ea	10	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,100.00
8157050	Bench, Backed	Ea	1	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,900.00
8157050	Platanus occidentalis, 2 inch	Ea	5	\$ 630.00	\$ 3,150.00
8167011	Turf Establishment, Turf Grass, Performance	Syd	600	\$ 6.50	\$ 3,900.00
8167011	Turf Establishment, Native Seed Mix, Mesic Tallgrass, Performance	Syd	1,100	\$ 3.60	\$ 3,960.00
8167011	Turf Establishment, Native Seed Mix, Woodland Edge, Performance	Syd	1,600	\$ 3.70	\$ 5,920.00

8167011	Turf Establishment, Native Seed Mix, Forested Wetland, Performance	Syd	800	\$ 3.70	\$ 2,960.00
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ESTIMATED TOTAL				\$ 1,287,382.00	
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Alternate Bid Items

Install alternate limestone sand base beneath the proposed shared use path in lieu of 21AA aggregate.

8067011	Shared use Path, Aggregate, Limestone Sand, 8 inch	Syd	3,965	\$ 40.00	\$ 158,600.00
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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

2024 MEETING CALENDAR

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm, excluding the month of July (no meeting). This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976.

DATE	SITE	TIME	LOCATION
January 9, 2024	Parks Administration Office 2230 Platt Road Ann Arbor, MI 48104	2:00pm	Large Conference Room
February 13, 2024	Staebler Farm County Park 7734 Plymouth Rd Superior Township, MI 48105	2:00pm	Michigan Folk School: Blackbird Lodge
March 12, 2024	Parks Administration Office 2230 Platt Road Ann Arbor, MI 48104	2:00pm	Large Conference Room
April 9, 2024	Independence Lake County Park 3200 Jennings Road Whitmore Lake, MI 48189	2:00pm	Beach Center
May 14, 2024	Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center 2960 Washtenaw Avenue Ann Arbor MI 48104	2:00pm	Studio Room
June 11, 2024	Sharon Mills County Park 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd Manchester, MI 48158	2:00pm	Mill Building
August 13, 2024	Staebler Farm County Park 7734 Plymouth Rd Superior Township, MI 48105	2:00pm	Michigan Folk School: Blackbird Lodge
September 10, 2024	Parks Administration Office 2230 Platt Road Ann Arbor, MI 48104	2:00pm	Large Conference Room
October 8, 2024	Rolling Hills County Park 7660 Stony Creek Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48197	2:00pm	Lodge Great Room
November 12, 2024	Parks Administration Office 2230 Platt Road Ann Arbor, MI 48104	2:00pm	Large Conference Room
December 10, 2024	Pierce Lake Golf Course 1175 South Main Street Chelsea, MI 48118	2:00pm	Fredrick L. Barkley Golf Center

The County of Washtenaw will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon seven (7) days' notice to the County of Washtenaw.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Washtenaw by writing or calling the following: Washtenaw County Human Resources, 220 N. Main St, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645 | (734) 222-6800 | TDD# (734) 994-1733